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# THE PINK

65p

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## Non league special



Eight pages of news and views inside

### Great news off the pitch for ambitious Eastleigh

Full story on page 3



Saints icon Alan Ball, Bobby Charlton and Bobby Moore with the World Cup ... half a century ago today.



# 50 YEARS AGO TODAY ...

#### IT was 50 years ago today that English football celebrated its finest ever moment.

Alan Ball, who would go on to become a Southampton legend, was dancing on the pitch at Wembley after helping secure one of the proudest days in the nation's history.

Ball and his England teammates defeated West Germany 4-2 in front of their own fans to lift the Jules Rimet Trophy. Some 50 years on England have failed to win another major trophy, making today's anniversary a poignant affair.

Also in the England squad in '66 was Terry Paine, the record Saints appearance maker and club president.

● Relive the great day on pages 4/5.

### INSIDE



Tough summer for Hampshire - pages 26-29



Local cricket spotlight - pages 36/37



Tributes paid to 'Mr Netley' - page 22



**Adam Rant**



The week's big talking points with **ADAM LEITCH**

# Olympics in need of fresh approach

Major problems in sport are being masked over

**HERE'S hoping that this summer's Olympics turns out to be remembered for all the right reasons, because it doesn't feel like it will be right now.**

Forget the golfers' withdrawing, or the absence of stars like Roger Federer, the water quality or the debates over legacy, the real problem is the spectre of doping that is hanging over the upcoming games in Rio like a dark cloud.

After all the revelations about the systematic doping programme in Russia, it feels like a sense of chaos, confusion and injustice is being felt by so many athletes.

Sadly, it is impossible to believe that everybody competing will be doing so completely clean.

There is already talk this will be remembered as the doping games, and it's not hard to see why.

At times of crisis you need great clarity and a togetherness of purpose, a sense of direction.

It has not been provided.

The IOC's decision not to impose a blanket ban on Russian athletes from competing has left an odd situation whereby individual sports are making the call based on past doping convictions or testing regimes.

It means we have athletes who have served a doping conviction but who happen to be from Russia barred from competing, yet we have athletes from other countries who have served a doping ban allowed to take part.

And on top of all this the whistleblower who lifted the lid on a scandal the world needed to hear is also being denied the chance to compete, which just about manages to send out the worse possible message to anybody who thinks they should



Russian Olympic Committee President Alexander Zhukov, center, passes through Russia's National Olympic team

come forward in the future.

If it feels like a total mess, if it looks like a total mess then, invariably, it is a total mess.

The race to try and catch dopers is one that is being lost, and the confusion over punishments is not helping.

Surely there needs to be one hard and fast rule that applies to everybody. You cannot simply start to adapt and judge things on an indi-

vidual basis.

Either it's a set length ban for everybody, or it's a life ban for everybody.

The latter would mean a few unfortunate people get caught in the crossfire having tried to do nothing wrong, but so be it if it's for the greater good.

There has to be joined-up thinking and unified action between different nations, different anti-doping bodies

and the governing bodies of different sports, and far greater transparency.

If people are to have faith in the Olympics and the Olympic movement it needs a fresh new approach, one of great clarity.

It might have come too late for Rio, but even if the games are, as everybody hopes, a success it cannot be allowed to mask the major issues being faced.

## Call-ups a problem for Saints

**SAINTS** have often been accused of being victims of their own success in recent years, and they are aiming to ensure they don't learn another harsh lesson from life at the top.

With their increasingly impressive form in the league has come an inevitable increasing number of international call-ups.

Euro 2016 was a success for many Saints stars, and particularly Jose Fonte and Cedric Soares who went all the way to lift the trophy with Portugal.

The need for them to have a holiday at the end of a very long season means they don't return until less than a fortnight to go until the start of the new Premier League campaign.

Given that others players after their breaks have been given at least a week of training before being eased in with a couple of 45 minutes of action, and that Saints only have friendlies left on Wednesday and next Saturday, the club is left with an obvious problem.

It's not only about fitness and sharpness, but also about a new manager getting together a gelled team who understands what he wants ready to go.

Not easy.



Jose Fonte



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**Non league FOOTBALL**



# Spitfires ready to start on £1m build

Clubhouse to help preparations for TV cameras era

**EASTLEIGH** are ready to get cracking after being granted planning permission for a new two-story clubhouse complex at the north end of their Silverlake Stadium home.

Chairman Stewart Donald's Spitfires had been eagerly awaiting the go-ahead from Eastleigh Borough Council, who granted the application late last week.

Now, the ambitious National League club will get straight to work on a £1 million project, starting on Monday, writes *Wendy Gee*.

The Portakabins currently situated at the clubhouse end of the ground will be relocated, completely clearing the site, and Donald is hoping the bulk of the work will be completed by Christmas.

**Benefit**

It's a development that will not only benefit fans, but will ensure the club's growing band of staff no longer have to operate out of temporary buildings scattered round the ground.

The planning documents have permitted the erection of a two-storey building to provide a clubhouse, education room and shop at ground-floor level and an executive club, boardroom and police surveillance room on the first floor.

As Eastleigh CEO Mark Jewell recently told *The Pink*: "This will tidy up our facilities and improve the match day experience, not just for the fans but for the safety officers and all the people who currently work out of portable buildings."

**Proper club**

"We want to bring everything together and create a permanent structure to be proud of so that when we get TV cameras here, it will feel like a proper football club rather than one that's just come out of the lower echelons."

"Whilst a lot of our ground improvements – the terracing and the Mackoy Community Stand – are obvious, facilities have been stagnant behind the scenes, making the day-to-day running of the club difficult. We need a business facility."

Jewell added: "Having a construction site while we're playing matches is no problem. It's no different to when the Mackoy Stand was built



Eastleigh FC's old buildings will be replaced.



down the other end. We just have to plan it properly."

Team boss Chris Todd was delighted to get the thumbs up from the council.

"Getting planning permission for

the new building is amazing. It's always been Stew's (chairman Stewart Donald's) plan to take the club forward and this will be a big part of taking us to the next level," he enthused.

"It'll make life a lot easier with new offices, function rooms and so on. We're delighted."

"The club's developed so much since I've been here and this is another stepping stone."

## Opening honours

**SOUTH** coast football legend Alan Knight will officially open a Sydenhams Wessex League club's new facilities next week.

The former Pompey goalkeeper will open Baffins Milton Rovers' new £50,000 stadium upgrade on Wednesday ahead of a pre-season friendly match against Salisbury FC.

Cllr Donna Jones, Leader of Portsmouth City Council and Ray Crawford, the ex-Pompey striker, will also be in attendance.

The project was made possible thanks to a £33,189 grant from the Premier League through the Football Stadium Improvement Fund (FSIF), the largest funders of non-league football in the country.

The grant has enabled Baffins Milton, last season's Hampshire Premier League champions, to install brand new floodlights, dug-outs and spectator toilets.

Funded with £5.2m each year from the Premier League, the FSIF is the country's largest provider of grants towards projects that help improve the comfort and safety of lower league football grounds in both the pro and amateur game.



Alan Knight

## Fee fears for Dyche

**BURNLEY** manager Sean Dyche admits the soaring costs in this summer's transfer window are making it difficult to secure his targets.

Leicester's N'Golo Kante moving to Chelsea for £30 million just a year after joining from Caen for £7 million and Bournemouth buying Liverpool's 20-year-old winger Jordan Ibe for £13 million are just two deals which reflect a sharp increase in fees.

The Claret's return to the Premier League, where the team who finishes last will still earn about £100 million, after one season away.

Dyche worked with a small budget last time and similar limitations are making recruitment difficult with summer spending so far just the £3.6 million on Johann Berg Gudmundsson and Nick Pope.

Dyche said: "The market is challenging, I'm a broken record but it's the truth."

"It's not just us, when you see the numbers flying around it is a big challenge."



## Looking back at the heroes of 1966...

THE class of 1966 still remain England's sole side to lift a trophy at a major tournament.

Here, the *Sports Pink* runs the rule over how England's men followed up on that World Cup win.

### GORDON BANKS

Went on to win 73 England caps and make 628 club appearances in a 15-year career. Still famed for his stunning save from Pele's header in England's 1970 World Cup clash with Brazil. Helped Stoke to the 1972 League Cup though lost the sight in one eye in a car crash in October later that same year, that ultimately ended his professional career. Enjoyed a brief managerial stint with Telford United.

### GEORGE COHEN

Fulham defender Cohen was forced to retire through injury aged 29, having amassed 459 appearances for the Craven Cottage club. Cohen struggled with bowel cancer for 14 years in the 1980s. He later opted to sell his World Cup winner's medal, though Fulham purchased the item to display it at Craven Cottage. Nephew Ben Cohen helped England win the Rugby World Cup in 2003. Awarded the MBE in 2000.



Bobby Moore chaired by Geoff Hurst (left) and Ray Wilson

### JACK CHARLTON

Made 629 appearances for Leeds and collected 35 England caps, before turning attention to a successful managerial career. After stints with Middlesbrough, Sheffield Wednesday and Newcastle, Charlton stepped up to lead the Republic of Ireland. Charlton led the Irish to the last 16 of World Cup 1994, his side falling 2-0 to Holland. Appointed an OBE in 1974 and awarded honorary Irish citizenship in 1996, being made a freeman of the city of Dublin in 1994. Still lives in his native north east.

### BOBBY MOORE

Widely accepted as England's greatest centre-half and one of the best anywhere of all time, the World Cup-winning captain died from bowel and liver cancer in February 1993, aged 51. Won 108 caps for England, representing West Ham with distinction, before enjoying spells at Fulham and in America. Moore's widow Stephanie founded the Bobby Moore Fund in 1993, to raise money for research into bowel cancer and raise public awareness of the disease.

*continued on facing page*

# Passion was the

## IT all started of course with Pickles.

The black and white collie that sniffed out the world's most coveted piece of silverware, stolen by a mystery thief, at the bottom of a garden hedge.

Three months later Pickles would be slurping out of a bowl at Kensington's plush Royal Garden Hotel, as nearby England's players toasted this country's greatest sporting success – unprecedented and, 50 years on today, unmatched.

Back then the 16-team tournament was greeted with giddy fanfare but in stark contrast to the modern era, tickets were relatively easy to come by, particularly in the early stages when fans could still grab seats on the day.

Alf Ramsey's men also started slowly, grinding out a grim 0-0 draw against Uruguay which left supporters jeering at Wembley and journalists sceptical, with one newspaper headline sneering: 'Ramsey still thinks his side can win'.

"The Uruguayans came with a blanket defence and just hoped to get a breakaway," England full-back George Cohen said.

"It was a boring game and we didn't get a very good press afterwards but Alf was very calm about it.

"He said, 'we haven't lost. We are still well in the competition' and he was right."

England picked up, beating both Mexico and France 2-0 to finish top of Group 1 and set up a quarter-final meeting with Argentina.

And it was then that home advantage began to tell. First, Argentina's bus got lost en route to a training session at Lilleshall and then the team were denied a mandatory practice at Wembley, conveniently bumped off by a night of greyhound racing.

Another to lose his place was England striker Jimmy Greaves, their most highly-regarded goalscorer, who had struggled for form in the group stages.

When Greaves suffered a knock against the French, Ramsey showed no hesitation in replacing him with the lesser-known Geoff Hurst.

Hurst scored the winner, a flicked header across the goalkeeper, as Argentina captain Antonio Rattin was controversially sent off and Ramsey ended the match blocking his players from swapping shirts with the opposition, whom he later derided as acting "like animals".

The semi-final win over Portugal was more straightforward, Bobby Charlton's double putting the hosts out of sight before tournament top scorer Eusebio added a late consolation with the last of his nine goals in the tournament.

England now felt unstoppable and it was no surprise when on July 30, 96,924 people attended the final against West Germany which drew a British television audience of 32.3 million.

"There are lots of things that stick in my mind," Cohen said of



Another view of Geoff Hurst scoring England's fourth goal past German keeper Hans Tilkowski.



West Ham trio Bobby Moore, Martin Peters and Geoff Hurst during the England team's lap of honour at Wembley.



England's Geoff Hurst completes his hat-trick 50 years ago today.

the match.

"The amount of people that came out and supported us before we got into the stadium was tremendous – you couldn't actually get to the gate to go through on the coach. It rather surprised me.

"I remember there was one banner saying 'Nobby Stiles for Prime Minister' and he stood a chance didn't he!?"

England were also one of the fittest teams in the tournament.

While other sides maintained a more lacklustre approach to preparation, Ramsey had banned his squad from drinking alcohol two months prior to the competition's start.

"When Alan Ball got picked after a few games, he said, 'if you want the shirt back, you will have to tear

it off my back'," Hurst said.

"He was one of the most passionate players and you need that. As well as the individual ability, that team spirit and togetherness is as important an ingredient to any country winning the World Cup."

Ball, who went on to play for Saints and manage the club as well, was named man of the match in the final as goals from Hurst and Mar-

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# key for '66 squad

## Whatever happened to our heroes?

from facing page

### RAY WILSON

England's left-back has kept the lowest profile of the 1966 winners. Wilson built a successful undertaker's business in Huddersfield after his football career, but retired from his second career in 1997. Lives in Slaithwaite near Huddersfield.

### NOBBY STILES

Midfielder Stiles ended up with 28 England caps but went on to rack up 392 appearances for Manchester United before a move to Middlesbrough in 1971. A career in coaching followed, with two stints at Preston, before a short-lived tenure at West Brom. Stiles worked as a youth team coach at Manchester United between 1989 and 1993, helping oversee the development of the renowned class of '92 that included the likes of David Beckham and the Neville brothers.

### ALAN BALL

Ball died of a heart attack in April, 2007, aged 61. The combative midfielder excelled in stints with Blackpool, Everton, Arsenal and Saints,



Former Saints and Pompey manager Alan Ball

while also winning 72 England caps. After more than 800 club appearances Ball then moved into management, twice taking charge at Portsmouth along with stints at Saints and Manchester City.

### SIR BOBBY CHARLTON

Continues to sit on Manchester United's board of directors, remaining a fixture at Old Trafford matches. The 78-year-old Ashington native racked up 106 England caps between 1958 and 1970, before short managerial stints with Preston and Wigan.

### MARTIN PETERS

Moved into the insurance business after retiring from football in 1983, following 67 England caps and lengthy stints with West Ham, Tottenham and Norwich. Sat on Tottenham's board of directors in the late 1990s and continues to attend Spurs matches even though he has since stepped down from his formal role.

### SIR GEOFF HURST

Still the only man to score a hat-trick in a World Cup final.

*Continued on next page*



England captain Bobby Moore displays the World Cup trophy while being carried by his England colleagues after their 4-2 win against West Germany. Above right - Alan Ball, Bobby Charlton and Bobby Moore on England's lap of honour.



Geoff Hurst scores his first goal in the 1966 World Cup final.



England's World Cup final team line up before the final.

tin Peters meant England led 2-1 until Wolfgang Weber snatched an 89th-minute equaliser, forcing the match to extra-time.

Eleven minutes in Hurst restored England's lead, his swivel followed by a shot which cannoned down off the underside of the crossbar and, according to an Azerbaijani linesman, crossed the line for one of the game's most hotly-disputed goals.

England's most famous, however,

was yet to come as Hurst tore away on the counter-attack, with impatient fans running onto the pitch in expectation of the final whistle.

Hurst carried on, blasting a shot high into the net for his third and England's fourth to secure victory, as BBC commentator Kenneth Wolstenholme bellowed, 'they think it's all over ... it is now!'

Fifty years on, England's wait continues.

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## Heroes past and present of 1966 win

From page 5

Hurst made more than 400 appearances for West Ham and won 49 England caps. Short-lived managerial stints with Telford United, Chelsea and even a foray into club management in Kuwait punctuated work in the insurance trade after his playing career. Lives in Cheltenham.

### ROGER HUNT

Liverpool stalwart Hunt made more than 400 appearances for the Anfield club, along with winning 34 caps for England. Held Liverpool's club scoring record until overhauled by Ian Rush. Joined his family's haulage business after retiring from football.

### SIR ALF RAMSEY, MANAGER:

The former Saints and Tottenham full-back continued at the England helm until 1974, after the 1966 triumph. Ramsey lost his national job after England failed to qualify for the 1974 World Cup. Stints at Birmingham and Panathinaikos followed, before he spent his retirement in Ipswich. Ramsey died in April, 1999 aged 79, less than a year after suffering a stroke, and after



Sir Alf Ramsey with a replica of the Jules Rimet Trophy battling Alzheimer's disease and prostate cancer.

### 1966 WORLD CUP IN NUMBERS

96,924 – the official attendance at Wembley.  
2,575 – it would have cost 25 pounds and 75 shillings for a Grade 1 '10-match ticket' to watch all the 1966 World Cup games in a group, the knockout stages and then guaranteed admission to the final at Wembley, for which there were no individual seat tickets put on sale. That is an equivalent purchase of around £483 today.

120 – the minutes on the clock, with extra-time all but up, when Geoff Hurst broke down the left before crashing home England's fourth goal.

101 – the minute when Hurst 'scored' England's third goal, which West Germany claimed did not cross the line after hitting the crossbar.

78 – minutes into the game when a goal from Martin Peters put England 2-1 ahead.

65 – the Grade 4 (standing) 10-match ticket would have cost fans three pounds 17 shillings and six pence, which works out at just over £65 today.

# Who will Big Sam

## JUST who will Sam Allardyce pick for England, and how will the side line up?

He favoured a 4-3-3 formation as he masterminded Sunderland's survival push last season.

England, though, are not blessed with in-form wingers or wide forwards.

That might leave him pondering a 4-4-2 diamond formation, often utilised during his West Ham stint, that allows for a pair of scorers and an energetic midfield.

Here, the Sports Pink offers a possible Allardyce XI and the reasons behind it.

*(4-4-2, diamond) Hart; Walker, Shawcross, Smalling, Cresswell; Dier, Henderson, Barkley, Alli; Vardy, Kane.*

*Subs (from): Butland/Forster; Stones, Rose, Clyne, Noble, Wilshere, Drinkwater, Carroll, Rashford.*

### GOALKEEPER

Expect Joe Hart's undisputed number one status to come under question after his sub-par showing at Euro 2016.

Saints ace Fraser Forster and Stoke's Jack Butland can both expect to have a level playing field but Allardyce may well begin by handing Hart one more chance.

The Manchester City man turned in a man-of-the-match performance against Allardyce's Sunderland in February and is the only candidate with experience of Champions League football.

### FULL-BACKS

Right-back Kyle Walker will be tarnished by association by the debacle against Iceland but he is one of few who returned from France with an improved CV.

At left-back England have various options - Danny Rose, Saints star Ryan Bertrand, Luke Shaw and Leighton Baines et al.

Allardyce might have been tempted to blood his former West Ham signing Aaron Cresswell.

Cresswell, 26, started his career with Tranmere prior to moving to Ipswich in the summer of 2011.

Three years later, Allardyce paid £3.7m to take the player to Upton Park. He has proved a model of consistency, only missing one Premier League game in his two seasons at West Ham and scoring four goals.

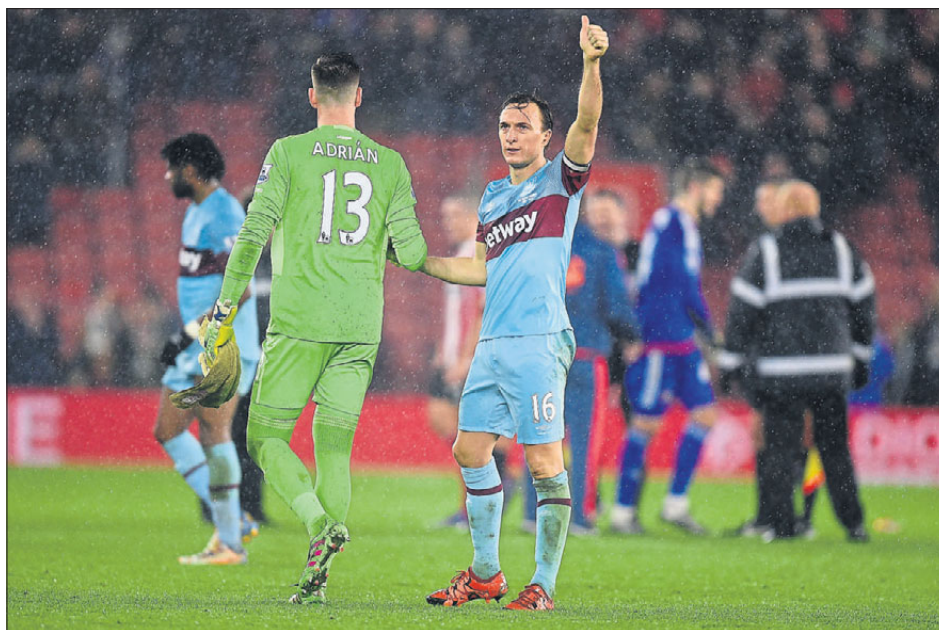
Cresswell, though, will miss the first few weeks of the new season after picking up an injury in pre season.

### CENTRE-BACK

Chris Smalling is close to a certain pick given his rising stature at Manchester United and his appeal



Could Fraser Forster get his big England international chance under new boss Sam Allardyce?



West Ham United's Mark Noble (right) could make his England debut under his former Upton Park boss.

ing age (26).

But Allardyce could decide to phase out Gary Cahill who failed to organise the defence in France.

Everton's John Stones appears to best-placed young candidate but Allardyce's misgivings about defenders who play from the back, and Stones' own dubious form last term, might be good news for Ryan

Shawcross.

Considered by some to be too rustic for international football – the same accusation that was always levelled at the new England boss during his own playing career – he could nonetheless play a bridging role by helping bring discipline to the back four.

Shawcross has one England sen-

ior cap to his name – coming off the bench for the last 16 minutes of the friendly in Sweden in November 2012.

It wasn't a memorable introduction to international football, as Zlatan Ibrahimovic netted three times in 12 minutes – including a remarkable overhead kick from outside the penalty area – to end

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# pick for England?



Sunderland's Jermain Defoe helped keep Sam Allardyce's Black Cats in the Premier League. But at 33, surely his England days are over ...?



West Ham's Andy Carroll (right) could make his England return under Sam Allardyce.

with all four of his country's goals in a 4-2 friendly victory.

Shawcross has since said: "I was given 10 minutes to show what I could do and probably didn't provide a good enough performance. I was against one of the best strikers in the world who was on a hot streak at the time and these things happen."

## MIDFIELD

It would be a brave coach to axe Eric Dier after his efforts over the summer, and he should be the midfield anchor of England's 2018 qualification bid.

Dier's White Hart Lane colleague

Dele Alli is a similarly exciting prospect despite a mixed Euros, while Liverpool's Jordan Henderson – a former Allardyce target at West Ham – has the work-rate and athleticism to appeal.

Wayne Rooney's playmaker experiment may already be over and Jack Wilshere has ground to make up after his injury struggles, mean-

ing the rehabilitation of Ross Barkley's international career might become a key project.

Hammers skipper Mark Noble can expect a call-up to the squad, if not a starting jersey, while Danny Drinkwater may act as back-up to Dier.

Noble, 29, has played over 300 league games for West Ham – indeed, he is the club's record appearance holder in the Premier League.

He captained both England under-18s and England under-21s – the latter at the 2009 European Championships – but has never won a senior international cap.

That time could come under Allardyce, who made him captain during his time at Upton Park.

## ATTACK

There could be more bad news ahead for Rooney, should he struggle for game-time or goals under Jose Mourinho at Manchester United.

Allardyce suggested last season that Harry Kane was now a more accomplished number nine than the country's record goalscorer and Rooney might find his starting place under threat, particularly if Jamie Vardy can maintain his scoring threat in a weakened Leicester team or Marcus Rashford continues to impress at Old Trafford.

## Attachments

Allardyce has personal attachments to Andy Carroll and Jermain Defoe and while time may have caught up the latter, it would be no surprise to see Carroll involved as a bench option.

Carroll, still only 27, was initially signed by Allardyce on loan from Liverpool ahead of West Ham's Premier League return in the summer of 2012.

He scored seven goals in 24 appearances, leading to a £15m permanent signing in the summer of 2013.

Carroll – who last played for England in 2012 – then suffered badly from injuries, only appearing in 17 league games in 2013/14 and 19 the season after.

Last term, he appeared in 27 league games and scored nine goals – including a hat-trick against Arsenal in April.

Defoe, meanwhile, played a major role as Allardyce masterminded Sunderland's escape from relegation last season.

Now 33, the former England international netted 11 league goals in the second half of the season to help the Black Cats stay up at arch rivals Newcastle's expense.

He struck twice in a home win over Aston Villa, hit a hat-trick in a 4-2 victory at Swansea, and also grabbed the winner as Sunderland hit back from 0-2 down to beat Chelsea 3-2 at The Stadium of Light.

Defoe possesses an impressive international record – 19 goals in 55 appearances – but has not represented England since 2013.

## Bristow is loving role

JASON Bristow is back working with the first team at his beloved Basingstoke Town and could not be happier as they prepare for life in the Evo-Stik Southern League.

He quit as manager last November – but retained his role as Academy boss – after his side slipped to the bottom of the National League South and relegation followed.

It was an emotional moment for Bristow, whose stewardship had led to two play-offs in the space of four seasons following more than 350 appearances for his hometown club.

Now, though, following the arrival of Terry Brown as manager and ex-Saint Kevin Braybrook as first-team coach, the 36-year-old can be found in the morning at Alton Town, where the players train, and afternoon at Basingstoke running the academy.

After dropping down a level, a radical decision was made for the club to go full-time and offer one-year contracts to young players who had found themselves out in the cold.

Only defender David Ray remains from last year's squad.

Bristow said: "I am working alongside Terry, taking training with him and Kevin on a daily basis. I am heavily involved with the first team again, which I am really enjoying."



Jason Bristow is loving life at Basingstoke Town again.

"I am also overseeing the academy. We are looking to have nearly 70 students and players coming through the system next year. It is busy but exciting as well."

"The goal now is to make sure the current players in the academy and under-21s (Chris Kirby is manager) see it as a progressive club and the opportunities are there."

"We are using a fantastic facility at Alton. We could not have asked for anything better."

"The players have responded and that has been reflected in the results in pre-season."

"We know those results count for nothing. Performances and fitness levels do."

"They are living in each other's pockets being full-time. They are learning a lot about each other."

Among the newcomers are the Atkinson twins – defender Michael and midfielder Robert – who have just turned 18 and were previously with Met Police Youth.

Bristow said: "They came to a game we put on last season and impressed so we invited them back."

Michael Atkinson scored in the victory against Gosport Borough in midweek as Basingstoke maintained their unbeaten run in friendlies, which also included defeating Reading Under-21s.



# CHAMPIONSHIP 2016-17 CLUB BY CLUB GUIDE

## ASTON VILLA



Manager: Roberto Di Matteo

Position last season: 20th in Premier League

Nickname: Villains  
Ground: Villa Park (42,660)  
Capacity: 42,660  
Players in: Tommy Elphick (Bournemouth, £3million), Pierluigi Gollini (Hellas Verona, undisclosed), Aaron Tshibola (Reading, undisclosed)

Players out: Charles N'Zogbia, Kieran Richardson (both released), Callum Robinson (Preston, undisclosed), Riccardo Calder (Doncaster, loan), Joshua Webb (Kilmarnock, free)

Key man: Tommy Elphick (pictured)

Chances: Much will depend on the turnover of players at Villa Park and how the club adapts to being out of the top flight for the first time in almost 30 years - Villa will be a prize scalp for every team. Di Matteo knows the division having got West Brom promoted in 2010 while new signings Elphick and Tshibola also have Championship know-how and are shrewd additions.

## BARNSELEY



Manager: Paul Heckingbottom  
Position last season: 6th in League One

Nickname: Reds  
Ground: Oakwell  
Capacity: 23,287  
Players in: Kayden Jackson (Wrexham, free), Stefan Payne (Dover, undisclosed), Andy Yiadom (Barnet, free), George Moncur (Colchester, £500,000), Elliot Lee (West Ham, free), Tom Bradshaw (Walsall, £650,000)

Players out: George Smith (released), George Williams (MK Dons, free), George Maris (Cambridge, free), Harry White (Solihull Moors, free), Paul Digby (Ipswich, free), Otis Khan (Yeovil, free), Jak McCourt (Northampton, free)

Key man: Adam Hammill (pictured)

Chances: Barnsley finished last season on the crest of a wave, losing just three matches after Christmas on their way to winning the JHP and promotion. Heckingbottom, now permanent manager, will look to carry on that momentum and he has recruited well.

## BIRMINGHAM



Manager: Gary Rowett

Position last season: 10th

Nickname: Blues  
Ground: St Andrew's  
Capacity: 30,016  
Players in: James Vaughan (Huddersfield, free), Jack Storer (Stevenage, undisclosed), Robert Tesche (Nottingham Forest, free), Ryan Shotton (Derby, free)

Players out: Mitch Hancox, Neal Eardley (both released), Emmanuel Mbende (Chemnitz, free), Mark Duffy (Sheffield United, free), Wes Thomas (Oxford, free), David Edgar (Vancouver Whitecaps, free), Lee Novak (Charlton, free), Denny Johnstone (Colchester, undisclosed)

Key man: Clayton Donaldson  
Chances: After stabilising a sinking ship during his first season in charge Rowett laid some solid foundations on which to build in his first full campaign at the helm. Following successive 10th-placed finishes, Blues should now be looking to push on and mount a serious play-off challenge.

## BLACKBURN



Manager: Owen Coyle

Position last season: 15th

Nickname: Rovers  
Ground: Ewood Park (31,367)  
Players in: Anthony Stokes (Celtic, free), Stephen Hendrie (West Ham, loan), Danny Graham (Sunderland, free), Liam Feeney (pictured, Bolton, free), Jack Byrne (Man City, loan)

Players out: Matt Kilgallon, Chris Brown, Lee Williamson, Nathan Delfouneso (all released), Simon Eastwood (Oxford, free), Simeon Jackson (Walsall, free) Grant Hanley (Newcastle, undisclosed), Anton Forrester (Port Vale, free), Chris Taylor (Bolton, free), Tommy Spurr (Preston, free), Yann Songo'o (Plymouth, free)

Key man: Shane Duffy  
Chances: Rovers start a fifth straight campaign outside the top flight with optimism in short supply. Paul Lambert left because of a perceived lack of ambition and Owen Coyle's appointment did not appease supporters. A top-half finish must be the aim, though, with Graham and Stokes capable of filling the Jordan Rhodes void.

## BRENTFORD



Manager: Dean Smith (pictured)

Position last season: 9th

Nickname: The Bees  
Ground: Griffin Park  
Capacity: 12,300  
Players in: Romaine Sawyers (Walsall, free), John Egan (Gillingham, free), Dan Bentley (Southend, compensation)  
Players out: Mark Smith (released), Jack O'Connell (Sheffield United, undisclosed), Jake Bidwell (QPR, undisclosed), Dan O'Shaughnessy (Cheltenham, free), David Button (Fulham, undisclosed), Courtney Senior (Colchester, free)

Key man: Scott Hogan

Chances: Brentford finished last term strongly, winning seven of their last nine matches, and Smith, in his first full season in charge, will hope to carry that momentum into the new campaign. Much will depend on whether striker Hogan, who signed off last season with seven goals in four games, can stay fit following two cruciate injuries.

## BRIGHTON



Manager: Chris Hughton

Position last season: 3rd

Nickname: The Seagulls  
Ground: American Express Community Stadium (30,250)  
Players in: Glenn Murray (pictured, Bournemouth, loan), Ben Hall (Motherwell, undisclosed), Steve Sidwell (Stoke, free), Tyler Hornby-Forbes (Fleetwood, undisclosed)

Players out: Gordon Greer, Bobby Zamora, Andrew Crofts, Adam Chicksen (all released), Jake Forster-Caskey (Rotherham, loan), Glen Rea (Luton, undisclosed), Inigo Calderon (Anorthosis Famagusta, free), Tom Dallison (Cambridge, free), Chris O'Grady (Burton, loan), Christian Walton (Luton, loan)

Key man: Anthony Knockaert

Chances: Brighton missed out on automatic promotion on goal difference on the final day before failing in the play-offs. Re-signing Murray and getting Sidwell to stay are good moves by Hughton. They should challenge again.

## BRISTOL CITY



Manager: Lee Johnson

Position last season: 18th

Nickname: Robins  
Ground: Ashton Gate (16,600)  
Players in: Johnny Smith (Wrexham, undisclosed), Josh Brownhill (Preston, compensation), Gary O'Neil (pictured, Norwich, free), Diego De Girolamo (Sheff Utd, free), Hordur Magnusson (Juventus, undisclosed), Lee Tomlin (Bournemouth, undisclosed), Callum O'Dowda (Oxford, undisclosed)

Players out: Karleigh Osbourne (Plymouth, free), Scott Wagstaff (Gillingham, free), Adam El-Abd (Shrewsbury, free), Wes Burns (Aberdeen, loan)

Key man: Aden Flint  
Chances: City made an unsteady start to life back in the Championship last season but found their groove during the second half. Johnson will want improvement in his first full season in charge and his recruitment so far bodes well.

## BURTON



Manager: Nigel Clough (pictured)

Position last season: 2nd in League One

Nickname: The Brewers  
Ground: Pirelli Stadium (6,912)  
Players in: Ben Turner (Cardiff, free), Kyle McFadzean (MK Dons, undisclosed), Chris O'Grady (Brighton, loan), Jackson Irvine (Ross County, undisclosed)

Players out: Timmy Thiele, Dean Lyness (both released), Robbie Weir (Leyton Orient, free), George Taft (Mansfield, free), Anthony O'Connor (Aberdeen, loan), Darius Charles (AFC Wimbledon, free), Shane Cansdell-Sherriff (Manly United, free), Sam Austin (Kidderminster, free), Mark Shelton (Ilkeston town, free)

Key man: Lucas Akins

Chances: Just reaching the Championship for the first time in the club's relatively short history is remarkable. Remaining in the second tier for another season would surely surpass anything achieved so far.



# CHAMPIONSHIP 2016-17 CLUB BY CLUB GUIDE

## CARDIFF



**Manager:** Paul Trollope  
**Position last season:** 8th  
**Nickname:** Bluebirds  
**Ground:** Cardiff City Stadium  
**(33,280)**

**Players in:** Lex Immers (Feyenoord, free), Kenneth Zohore (KV Kortrijk, undisclosed), Jazz Richards (Fulham, swap), Frederic Gounongbe (KVC Westerlo, free)  
**Players out:** Ben Turner (Burton, free), Kenwynne Jones (pictured, Atlanta United, free), Joe Lewis (Aberdeen, free), Etien Velikonja (NK Olimpija Ljubljana, free), Filip Kiss (FK Haugesund, free), Idriss Saadi (KV Kortrijk, loan), Deji Oshilaja (Gillingham, loan), Eoin Doyle (Preston, undisclosed), Jazzi Barnum-Bobb (Newport, free), Scott Malone (Fulham, swap).

**Key man:** David Marshall  
**Chances:** The absence of off-field turmoil last season coincided with a good campaign on the pitch as the play-offs proved just out of reach. Trollope has made the step up to manager and will hope to hit the ground running as his side look to bridge that six-point gap between themselves and the top six.

## DERBY



**Manager:** Nigel Pearson (pictured)  
**Position last season:** 5th  
**Nickname:** The Rams  
**Ground:** iPro Stadium  
**Capacity:** 33,597

**Players in:** None  
**Players out:** Tom Koblenz, Mats Morch (both released), Kwame Thomas (Coventry, free), Shaquille McDonald (Nuneaton, free), Ryan Shotton (Birmingham, undisclosed), Raul Albentosa (Deportivo La Coruna, undisclosed), Stephen Warnock (Wigan, free), Conor Sammon (Hearts, free), Ivan Calero (Sparta Rotterdam, free).

**Key man:** Will Hughes  
**Chances:** Nearly men for the past three seasons, Derby will be there or thereabouts again come May. The difference could prove to be the manager as in Pearson they now have a man who has been there and done it in the Championship.

## FULHAM



**Manager:** Slavisa Jokanovic

**Position last season:** 20th

**Nickname:** The Cottagers

**Ground:** Craven Cottage

**Capacity:** 25,700

**Players in:** Sone Aluko (Hull, free), Floyd Ayite (SC Bastia, undisclosed), Michael Madi (Sturm Graz, undisclosed), Tomas Kalas (Chelsea, loan), Denis Odoi (Lokeren, undisclosed), David Button (Brentford, undisclosed), Scott Malone (Cardiff, swap)

**Players out:** Josh Passley (released), Maarten Stekelenburg (pictured, Everton, undisclosed), Moussa Dembele (Celtic, compensation), Emerson Hyndman (Bournemouth, compensation), Andy Lonergan (Wolves, free), Shaun Hutchinson (Millwall, free), Hugo Rodallega (Akhisar Belediye Gencik ve Spor, free), Tim Hoogland (VfL Bochum, free), Gabor Kiraly (Szombathelyi Haladas, free), Chris David (Go Ahead Eagles, free), Adil Chihi (Frankfurt, free), Solomon Sambou (Bedford Town, free), Jonathan Buntu (Waasland-Beveren, free), Noe Baba (Birmingham, free), Dan Burn (Wigan, free), Jazz Richards (Cardiff, swap), Cameron Burgess (Oldham, loan)

**Key man:** Ross McCormack  
**Chances:** Fulham have struggled to adjust to life in the Championship following their relegation from the Premier League two years ago, finishing 17th and 20th in the second tier. It is hard to see them improving much this time around and should McCormack leave before the transfer window closes you would worry for Fulham.

## HUDDERSFIELD



**Manager:** David Wagner (pictured)

**Position last season:** 19th

**Nickname:** Terriers

**Ground:** John Smith's Stadium  
**Capacity:** 24,500

**Players in:** Rajiv van La Parra (Wolves, undisclosed), Michael Hefele (Dynamo Dresden, free), Chris Loewe (FC Kaiserslautern, free), Luke Coddington (Middlesbrough, free), Joel Coleman (Oldham, undisclosed), Ivan Paurevic (FC Ufa, undisclosed), Jack Payne (Southend, compensation), Christopher Schindler (TSV 1860 Munich, undisclosed), Elias Kachunga (FC Ingolstadt 04, loan), Aaron Mooy (Manchester City, season-long loan), Jon Gorenc Stankovic (Borussia Dortmund, undisclosed), Danny Ward (Liverpool, season-long loan), Kasey Palmer (Chelsea, loan).

**Players out:** Ishmael Miller, Lloyd Allinson, Joe Wilkinson, Ben Holmes, Ed Wilczynski, Sam Guthrie, Callum Charlton (all released), James Vaughan (Birmingham, free), Karim Matmour (TSV 1860 Munich, free), Duane Holmes (Scunthorpe, free), Joe Wright (Doncaster, undisclosed), William Boyle (Kilmarnock, loan), Flo Bojaj (Kilmarnock, loan), Joel Lynch (QPR, undisclosed), Jordy Hiwula (Bradford, loan)

**Key man:** Christopher Schindler  
**Chances:** Huddersfield have finished 19th, 17th, 16th and 19th since winning promotion back to the Championship in 2012 and their target of a top-half finish looks a tough challenge for Wagner in his first full season in charge. There has been a high turnover of players during the summer and they will need to gel quickly.

## IPSWICH



**Manager:** Mick McCarthy (pictured)

**Position last season:** 7th  
**Nickname:** Tractor Boys  
**Ground:** Portman Road  
**Capacity:** 30,311

**Players in:** Adam Webster (Portsmouth, £750,000), Paul Digby (Barnsley, free)

**Players out:** Luke Varney, Jay Tabb (both released), Josh Yorwerth (Crawley, free), Matt Clarke (Portsmouth, free)

**Key man:** Daryl Murphy  
**Chances:** Fell just short of the play-offs last time as a lack of goals perhaps cost them a serious promotion tilt with Murphy, 27 goals in 2014-15, not scoring until November. If McCarthy can get him firing straight away and maybe add another striker then the Tractor Boys can get back in the top six.

## LEEDS



**Manager:** Garry Monk (pictured)

**Position last season:** 13th

**Nickname:** Whites

**Ground:** Elland Road (39,460)

**Players in:** Marcus Antonsson (Kalmar, undisclosed), Kyle Bartley (Swansea, loan), Hadi Sacko (Sporting Lisbon, loan), Robert Green (QPR, free), Matt Grimes (Swansea, loan), Kamar Roofe (Oxford, undisclosed)

**Players out:** Eric Grimes, Tom Lyman, Robbie McDaid, Jake Skelton, Lewis Walters, Scott Wootton (all released), Giuseppe Bellusi (Empoli, loan), Casper Sloth (Aalborg, undisclosed), Lee Erwin (Oldham, loan), Lewis Cook (Bournemouth, undisclosed), Mirco Antenucci (SPAL, free), Ross Killock (Chester, free)

**Key man:** Kamar Roofe

**Chances:** With seven managers in just over two years, Leeds need stability. In Monk they have a very capable boss but he must be given time by trigger-happy owner Massimo Cellino. If he is then Leeds could prosper and we might be talking about the club's football, rather than the off-field circus we have become accustomed to.

## NEWCASTLE



**Manager:** Rafa Benitez (pictured)

**Position last season:** 18th in Premier League

**Nickname:** The Magpies

**Ground:** St James Park (52,405)

**Players in:** Matz Sels (Gent, undisclosed), Dwight Gayle (Crystal Palace, undisclosed), Matt Ritchie (Bournemouth, undisclosed), Jesus Gamez (Atletico Madrid, free), Isaac Hayden (Arsenal, undisclosed), Grant Hanley (Blackburn, undisclosed)

**Players out:** Steven Taylor (released), Ben Pollock (Hartlepool, free), Jamie Cobain (Kilmarnock, free), Papiss Cisse (Shandong Luneng, undisclosed), Andros Townsend (Crystal Palace, £13million), Fabricio Coloccini (San Lorenzo, free), Liam Smith (Crewe, loan)

**Key man:** Moussa Sissoko

**Chances:** Persuading Benitez to stay was a huge coup and it is no surprise Newcastle are the bookmakers' favourites for the title. The Spaniard has made some good additions to an already strong squad at this level and they will be feared and difficult to beat, especially at home.

## NORWICH



**Manager:** Alex Neil

**Position last season:** 19th in Premier League

**Nickname:** The Canaries

**Ground:** Carrow Road

**Capacity:** 27,244

**Players in:** Sergi Canos (Liverpool, £4.5million), Michael McGovern (Hamilton, free)

**Players out:** Jamar Loza, Reiss Awuah, Afolabi Coker, Reece Hall-Johnson, Cameron King, Cameron Norman, Arinse Uade (all released), Nathan Redmond (pictured, Southampton, £10million), Gary O'Neil (Bristol City, free), Adel Gafaiti (MC Oran, free), Jake Kean (Sheffield Wednesday, free), Remi Matthews (Hamilton, loan)

**Key man:** Cameron Jerome

**Chances:** Norwich bounced straight back up the last time they were relegated in 2014 and have a good chance of repeating the trick with Steven Whittaker, Wes Hoolahan, Alex Tettey, Michael Turner and Jerome all having signing new deals over the summer and committing to the cause. Redmond is a loss but the rest of the squad's Championship know-how will be invaluable.



# CHAMPIONSHIP 2016/17 CLUB BY CLUB GUIDE

## NOTTM FOREST



**Manager:** Philippe Montanier  
**Position last season:** 16th  
**Nickname:** The Reds  
**Ground:** City Ground  
**Capacity:** 30,603  
**Players in:** Apostolos Vellios (Iraklis Thessaloniki, undisclosed), Thomas Lam (PEC Zwolle, free)  
**Players out:** Kelvin Wilson, Chris Burke (both released), Robert Tesche (Birmingham, free)  
**Key man:** Britt Assombalonga (pictured)

**Chances:** Assombalonga was a huge miss last season for Forest. The striker is fit again after a year out with a serious knee injury and the club-record signing's return will be like having a new player. Clean sheets were a problem last season and Montanier must remedy that if the Reds are to have a chance of mounting a play-off challenge.

## PRESTON



**Manager:** Simon Grayson (pictured)  
**Position last season:** 11th  
**Nickname:** The Lilywhites  
**Ground:** Deepdale  
**Capacity:** 23,404  
**Players in:** Chris Maxwell (Fleetwood, free), Simon Makienok (Palermo, loan), Anders Lindgaard (West Brom, free), Eoin Doyle (Cardiff, undisclosed), Tommy Spurr (Blackburn, free), Callum Robinson (Aston Villa, compensation), Ben Pringle (Fulham, undisclosed)  
**Players out:** Neil Kilkenny, Andy Little, Kyel Reid (all released), Jamie Jones (Stevenage, undisclosed), Josh Brownhill (Bristol City, compensation), Chris Kirkland (Bury, free)  
**Key man:** Bailey Wright

**Chances:** A decent top-half finish last term was achieved by a defensively-sound team who conceded only 45 times. Having scored that exact amount too, Grayson will hope they can score more. A fully-fit Jermaine Beckford should make a difference.

## QPR



**Manager:** Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (pictured)  
**Position last season:** 12th  
**Nickname:** The Hoops  
**Ground:** Loftus Road (18,439)  
**Players in:** Jake Bidwell (Brentford, undisclosed), Ariel Borysiuk (Legia Warsaw, £800,000), Joel Lynch (Huddersfield, undisclosed), Jordan Cousins (Charlton, £1.25million)  
**Players out:** Oscar Gobern, Yun Suk-Young, Samba Diakite, Armand Traore, Alejandro Faurin (all released), Clint Hill (Rangers, free), Robert Green (Leeds, free), Leroy Fer (Swansea, undisclosed), Matt Phillips (West Brom, £5.5million), Jake Mulraney (Inverness, free), Addison Garnett (Crawley, free)  
**Key man:** Conor Washington

**Chances:** Hasselbaink took over in December and QPR drew 13 of his 27 matches in charge. If the Dutchman can figure out how to turn some of those into wins and spend wisely following the sales of Matt Phillips and Leroy Fer, the Hoops can challenge for the play-offs.

## READING



**Manager:** Jaap Stam  
**Position last season:** 17th  
**Nickname:** Royals  
**Ground:** Madejski Stadium (24,161)

**Players in:** Danzell Gravenberch (FC Dordrecht, undisclosed), Anssi Jaakkola (Ajax Cape Town, free), Joey van den Berg (Heerenveen, free), Joseph Mendes (Le Havre, undisclosed), John Swift (Chelsea, free), Roy Beerens (Hertha Berlin, undisclosed)

**Players out:** Anton Ferdinand, Hal Robson-Kanu (both released), Rowan Liburd (Stevenage, undisclosed), Aaron Tshibola (Aston Villa, £5million), Simon Cox (Southend, free)

**Key man:** John Swift (pictured)  
**Chances:** Reading finished the season in freefall, losing eight of their last 12 games. Stam will want to establish a winning mentality as quickly as possible but such a turnaround is required for the Royals to be considered as top-six contenders again and a season of mid-table obscurity probably beckons.

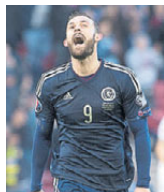
## ROTHERHAM



**Manager:** Alan Stubbs (pictured)  
**Position last season:** 21st  
**Nickname:** Millers  
**Ground:** New York Stadium (12,021)  
**Players in:** Anthony Forde (Walsall, undisclosed), Jake Forster-Caskey (Brighton, loan), Lewis Price (Sheffield Wednesday, free)  
**Players out:** Frazer Richardson, Lewis Buxton, Danny Collins, Lloyd Doyley, Paul Green, Emmanuel Ledesma, Luciano Becchio (all released), Adam Collin (Notts County, free), Paddy Kenny (Northampton, free), Alex Cairns (Fleetwood, free), Matt Derbyshire (Omonia Nicosia, free), Jerome Thomas (Port Vale, free)  
**Key man:** Lee Frecklington

**Chances:** After back-to-back promotions, Rotherham have survived successive relegation battles and will now be aiming for a mid-table finish. However, the division is looking as strong as it has ever been and a third fight against the drop beckons.

## SHEFF WED



**Manager:** Carlos Carvalho (pictured)  
**Position last season:** 6th  
**Nickname:** Owls  
**Ground:** Hillsborough  
**Capacity:** 39,732  
**Players in:** Steven Fletcher (pictured, Sunderland, free), Jordan Thorniley (Everton, free), Charlie Hayford (Tottenham, free), Jake Kean (Norwich, free)  
**Players out:** Ryan Croasdale, Brad Beatson, Will De Havilland, Luke Booker (all released), Courtney Wildin (Boston, free), Ryan Meadows (Wigan, free), Lewis Price (Rotherham, free)

**Key man:** Fernando Forestieri  
**Chances:** Losing in the play-off final will have obviously hurt but if Wednesday can put that Wembley heartache behind them quickly then they will be a force again this year. Carvalho has added depth to his squad and the acquisition of Fletcher gives the Owls one of the most feared striking quartets in the league.

## WIGAN



**Manager:** Gary Caldwell  
**Position last season:** 1st in League One

**Nickname:** Latics  
**Ground:** DW Stadium (25,138)  
**Players in:** Stephen Warnock (Derby, free), Alex Gilbey (Colchester, undisclosed), Dan Burn (Fulham, free), Kyle Knolly (West Ham, loan), Nick Powell (pictured, Man United, free), Adam Bogdan (Wigan, loan)

**Players out:** Ryan Jennings, Reece Wabara (both released), Chris McCann (Atlanta United, free), Billy McKay (Oldham, loan), Kevin McNaughton (Inverness, free), Leon Barnett (Bury, free)  
**Key man:** Will Grigg

**Chances:** After two relegations, a promotion and an FA Cup triumph in four seasons, who knows where the Wigan rollercoaster will go next. A complete rebuild was required after demotion to the third tier last summer and Gary Caldwell pieced that group together with a Championship return in mind. Survival is the minimum objective.

## WOLVES



**Manager:** Kenny Jackett (pictured)

**Position last season:** 14th  
**Nickname:** Wolves  
**Ground:** Molineux  
**Capacity:** 31,700

**Players in:** Andy Lonergan (Fulham, free)  
**Players out:** Razak Boukari (released), Zeli Ismail (Bury, free), Liam McAlinden (Exeter, free), Aaron McCarey (Ross County, free), Bjorn Sigurdarson (Molde, free), Tommy Rowe (Doncaster, free)  
**Key man:** Nouha Dicko

**Chances:** It was a disappointing campaign all round last season at Molineux with Dicko's serious knee injury in August setting the tone. Wolves missed his goals and if he can be fit and raring to go for the big kick-off then it will be such a boost for the club. Should improve on last season's finish but the play-offs will probably be beyond them.



# LEAGUE 1 2016/17 CLUB BY CLUB GUIDE

## AFC WIMBLEDON



**Manager:** Neal Ardley  
**Position last season:** 7th in League Two  
**Nickname:** Dons  
**Ground:** Kingsmeadow  
**Capacity:** 2,265  
**Players in:** Darius Charles (Burton, free), Dominic Poleon (Oldham, free), Dean Parrett (Stevenage, free), Chris Whelpdale (Stevenage, free), Ryan Clarke (Northampton, free)  
**Players out:** Sean Rigg (Newport, free), Callum Kennedy (Leyton Orient, free), Ade Azeze (Partick, free), Adebayo Akinfenwa (Wycombe, free)  
**Key man:** Lyle Taylor  
**Chances:** Ardley's side defied the odds to reach last season's play-offs, let alone triumph in the final to secure promotion. They are now punching even further above their weight and avoiding relegation would be another major achievement. Expect a couple of spicy meetings with MK Dons.

## BOLTON



**Manager:** Phil Parkinson  
**Position last season:** 24th (Championship)  
**Nickname:** Trotters, Wanderers  
**Ground:** Macron Stadium  
**Capacity:** 28,723  
**Players in:** Chris Taylor (Blackburn, free), Mark Beevers (Millwall, free), Jamie Proctor (Bradford, free)  
**Players out:** David Wheeler, Emile Heskey, Stephen Dobbie, Paul Rachubka, Francesco Pisano (all released), Neil Danns (Bury, free), Rob Hall (Oxford, free), Hayden White (Peterborough, free), Oscar Threlkeld (Plymouth, free), Niall Maher (Bury, free), Liam Feeney (Blackburn, free)  
**Key man:** Rob Holding  
**Chances:** Things can only get better for Bolton after a disastrous term on and off the field saw their very existence

## BRADFORD



**Manager:** Stuart McCall  
**Position last season:** 5th  
**Nickname:** Bantams  
**Ground:** Valley Parade  
**Capacity:** 25,136  
**Players in:** Nicky Law (Rangers, free), Nathaniel Knight-Percival (Shrewsbury, free), Colin Doyle (Blackpool, free), Timothee Dieng (Oldham, free), Jordy Hiwula (Huddersfield, season-long loan)  
**Players out:** Steven Davies, Sam Wright (both released), Christopher Routis (Ross County, free), Billy Knott (Gillingham, free), Alan Sheehan (Luton, free), Dylan Mottley-Henry (Barnsley, free)  
**Key man:** Filipe Morais  
**Chances:** Bradford fell just short in their play-off challenge last season and much will depend on how quickly returning hero McCall can mould a new-look side under the club's German owners, who took control in May. There have been plenty of changes at Valley Parade but optimism remains high among the majority of fans, who expect another tilt at the top six.

## BRISTOL ROV



**Manager:** Darrell Clarke  
**Position last season:** 3rd in League Two  
**Nickname:** The Pirates, The Gas  
**Ground:** Memorial Stadium  
**Capacity:** 11,000  
**Players in:** Byron Moore (Port Vale, free), Peter Hartley (Plymouth, free), Luke James (Peterborough, loan)  
**Players out:** Rory Fallon (Truro, free), Tom Parkes (Leyton Orient, free)  
**Key man:** Matty Taylor  
**Chances:** The team has not changed too much after their second successive promotion and that could be their downfall. This is a much harder level and they need to be able to score on a consistent basis through Taylor and loan signing Luke James, while keeping them out at the other end. Survival will be key for Bristol Rovers this season, but it could be a struggle.

## BURY



**Manager:** David Flitcroft  
**Position last season:** 14th  
**Nickname:** Shakers  
**Ground:** JD Stadium/Gigg Lane  
**Capacity:** 11,840  
**Players in:** Antony Kay (MK Dons, free), Chris Kirkland (Preston, free), Nicky Clark (Rangers, free), Zeli Ismail (Wolves, free), Niall Maher (Bolton, free), Ben Williams (Bradford, free), Greg Leigh (Bradford, undisclosed), Neil Danns (Bolton, free), Leon Barnett (Wigan, free)  
**Players out:** Rob Lainton, Danny Nardiello, Kiel O'Brien, Marcus Poscha, Reece Brown, Chris Eagles (all released), Ryan Lowe (Crewe, free), Danny Rose (Mansfield, undisclosed), Chris Hussey (Sheffield United, undisclosed), Joe Riley (Shrewsbury, undisclosed), Danny Pugh (Blackpool, free), Peter Clarke (Oldham, free)  
**Key man:** Neil Danns  
**Chances:** Bury have brought in players who are experienced at this level or higher but they are replacing talented individuals who have moved on. It would be a surprise if the Shakers were dragged into a relegation battle but fighting for a play-off place could also be just too much for this side.

## CHARLTON



**Manager:** Russell Slade  
**Position last season:** 22nd in Championship  
**Nickname:** Addicks  
**Ground:** The Valley (27,111)  
**Players in:** Louis-Michel Yamfam (Stevenage, undisclosed), Lee Novak (Birmingham, free), Ricky Holmes (Northampton, undisclosed), Nicky Ajose (Swindon, undisclosed)  
**Players out:** Marco Motta, Zak Ansah, Alex Kelly (all released), Igor Vetokele (Zulte Waregem, loan), Jordan Cousins (QPR, £1.25million), Tony Watt (Hearts, loan), Johann Berg Gudmundsson (Burnley, undisclosed), Nick Pope (Burnley, undisclosed), Reza Ghoochannejhad (Heerenveen, free), Ayo Obileye (Eastleigh, free), Josh Staunton (Dagenham, free), Joe Pigott (Cambridge, free)  
**Key man:** Callum Harriott  
**Chances:** Charlton's controversial owners have had a rethink following a disastrous Championship campaign, ditching their policy of hiring unheralded Belgian coaches and appointing experienced manager Slade. Anything less than the play-offs will be a disappointment.

## CHESTERFIELD



**Manager:** Danny Wilson  
**Position last season:** 18th  
**Nickname:** The Spireites  
**Ground:** Proact Stadium  
**Capacity:** 10,600  
**Players in:** Jon Nolan (Grimsby, free), Ched Evans (free agent), Kristian Dennis (Stockport, free), Reece Mitchell (Chelsea, free), Ryan Fulton (Liverpool, season-long loan)  
**Players out:** Byron Harrison, Mani Dieseruwwe, Michael Onovwigan (all released), Chris Herd (Perth Glory, free), Jordan Slew (Plymouth, free), Aaron Chapman (Accrington, free), Drew Talbot (Portsmouth, free)  
**Key man:** Ched Evans  
**Chances:** After the fire sale of star players last summer Chesterfield managed to stay up and Wilson is rebuilding ahead of his first full season in charge. Young non-league finds and former Premier League reserve players have been brought in to gel with a core of experienced heads who underperformed last season. There should be no struggle this time around.

## COVENTRY



**Manager:** Tony Mowbray  
**Position last season:** 8th  
**Nickname:** Sky Blues  
**Ground:** Ricoh Arena  
**Capacity:** 32,609  
**Players in:** Jodi Jones (Dagenham, undisclosed), Marvin Sordell (Colchester, free), Kwame Thomas (Derby, free)  
**Players out:** Jim O'Brien (Shrewsbury, free), Joe Cole (Tampa Bay, free), Bassala Sambou (Everton, undisclosed), John Fleck (Sheffield United, free), Conor Thomas (Swindon, free), Aaron Phillips (Northampton, free), Reda Johnson, Darius Henderson, Stephen Hunt, Marc-Antoine Fortune, Peter Ramage (all free)  
**Key Man:** Sam Ricketts  
**Chances:** The Sky Blues suffered a dramatic slump in the second half of last season after looking almost certain to return to the Championship for the first time since 2011. Boss Tony Mowbray is a shrewd operator and is popular among the players but the club's financial constraints and off-field issues could undermine a promotion campaign.



# LEAGUE 1 2016/17 - CLUB BY CLUB GUIDE

## FLEETWOOD



Manager: Steven Pressley  
Position last season: 19th  
Nickname: Cod Army  
Ground: Highbury Stadium  
Capacity: 5,327

Players in: Elliot Osborne (Nantwich, undisclosed), Michael Duckworth (Hartlepool, undisclosed), Matthew Urwin (AFC Fylde, free), Chris Neal (Port Vale, free), Alex Cairns (Rotherham, free), Ashley Nadesan (Horley Town, undisclosed), Ashley Eastham (Rochdale, free), Aaron Holloway (Wycombe, undisclosed), Ricardo Kip (Almere City, free), Cian Bolger (Southend, free)

Players out: Max Cartwright, Keir Dickson, Aleks Gogic, Stephen Jordan, Brendan Moore, Bradley Roscoe, Conor Smith, Matty Williams, Shola Ameobi, Harvey Hodd (all released), Danny Andrew (Grimsby, free), Jamille Matt (Blackpool, free), Antoni Sarcevic (Shrewsbury, free), Chris Maxwell (Preston, free), Tyler Hornby-Forbes (Brighton, undisclosed),

Key man: David Ball

Chances: There has been a mass upheaval at Highbury Stadium and it could take a while for the team to settle. But the Cod Army do have a nice blend of experience and talented youth in their side and are likely to do better than their 19th place finish of last season and aiming for a top 10 spot could be an achievable target.

## GILLINGHAM



Manager: Justin Edinburgh  
Position last season: 7th  
Nickname: Gills  
Ground: MEMS Priestfield Stadium

Capacity: 11,582

Players in: Billy Knott (Bradford, free), Mark Byrne (Newport, free), Joe Quigley (Bournemouth, loan), Lee Martin (Millwall, free), Deji Oshilaja (Cardiff, loan), Paul Konchesky (Leicester, free)

Players out: Brennan Dickenson (Colchester, free), Jermaine McGlashan (Southend, free), Glenn Morris (Crawley, free), Doug Loft (Colchester, free), John Egan (Brentford, free)

Key man: Bradley Dack

Chances: Gillingham just missed out on a play-off place last season and that will motivate the team to go one step further this time around. They will rely on Bradley Dack's goals once more but the side has not changed too much from their seventh-place finish and they are likely to be there or thereabouts again.

## MILLWALL



Manager: Neil Harris

Position last season: 4th

Nickname: Lions

Ground: The Den  
Capacity: 20,146

Players in: David Worrall (Southend, free), Shaun Hutchinson (Fulham, free), Gregg Wylde (Plymouth, free), Paul Rooney (Bohemians, free)

Players out: Carlos Edwards, Chris Parr (both released), John Marquis (Doncaster, free), Lee Martin (Gillingham, free), Paris Cowan-Hall (Wycombe, loan), Ed Upson (Wycombe, loan), Keaton Wood (Dartford, free), Jack Powell (Ebbsfleet, free)

Key man: Lee Gregory

Chances: Beaten play-off finalists last time around in Harris' first full season in charge, the south Londoners look well-equipped to go one better this time around. Strikers Steve Morison and Lee Gregory must be one of the best partnerships in the division.

## MK DONS



Manager: Karl Robinson

Position last season: 23rd in Championship

Nickname: The Dons

Ground: stadium:mk

Capacity: 22,000

Players in: Ed Upson (Millwall, free), Paul Downing (Walsall, free), George Williams (Barnsley, free)

Players out: Cody Cropper, Matthew Upson, Jordan Spence (all released), Lee Hodson (Rangers, undisclosed), Kyle McFadzean (Burton, undisclosed), Antony Kay (Bury, free), Carl Baker (Portsmouth, free)

Key man: Darren Potter

Chances: The Dons are vastly experienced at this level and finally cracked it a year ago by winning promotion. Their Championship campaign will stand them in good stead and if Robinson stays and keeps the majority of his squad together then they should be in the promotion mix.

## NORTHAMPTON



Manager: Rob Page  
Position last season: 1st in League Two  
Nickname: Cobblers  
Ground: Sixfields  
Capacity: 7,724

Players in: David Cornell (Oldham, free), Raheem Hanley (Swansea, free), Jak McCourt (Barnsley), Aaron Phillips (Coventry, free), Alex Revell (MK Dons, free), Gabriel Zakuani (Peterborough, free), Harry Beautyman (Peterborough, undisclosed), Paddy Kenny (Rotherham, free)

Players out: Nicky Adams (Carlisle, free), Ryan Clarke (AFC Wimbledon, free), Danny Rose (Portsmouth, free), Chris Hackett, Josh Lelan (both released), Ricky Holmes (Charlton, undisclosed)

Key man: Marc Richards

Chances: Ex-manager Chris Wilder guided the Cobblers to a runaway League Two title last season but left for Sheffield United and new boss Rob Page must ensure they avoid a relegation battle on their return to the third tier for the first time since dropping out in 2009.

## OLDHAM



Manager: Steve Robinson  
Position last season: 17th in League One  
Nickname: Latics  
Ground: SportsDirect.com Park/Boundary Park  
Capacity: 13,500

Players in: Connor Ripley (Middlesbrough, loan), Lee Erwin (Leeds, loan), Josh Law (Motherwell, free), Luke Woodland (Bradford PA, free), Jamie Reckord (unattached), Billy McKay (Wigan, loan), Marc Klok (Cherno More, free), Ryan Flynn (Sheffield United, undisclosed), Chris Kettings (Crystal Palace, free), Cameron Burgess (Fulham, loan), Peter Clarke (Bury, free), Ollie Banks (Chesterfield, free)

Players out: Jack Truelove, Jordan Bove, Joe Mills (all released), Mike Jones (Carlisle, free), Timothee Dieng (Bradford, free), Rhys Turner (Morecambe, free), David Cornell (Northampton, free), Theo Vassell (Walsall, free), Joel Coleman (Huddersfield, undisclosed), Chris Renshaw (Everton, undisclosed), Jonathan Forte (Notts County, free), James Wilson (Sheffield United, free), Rhys Murphy (Forest Green, nominal fee), Key man: Billy McKay

Chances: Oldham will be hoping for a settled season after having three managers during last season but still managing to stay up. They are a bit of an unknown quantity with a manager in his first job but he has bought well and if they gel could be in the top half of the table.

## OXFORD UTD



Manager: Michael Appleton

Position last season: 2nd in League Two  
Nickname: The U's  
Ground: Kassam Stadium  
Capacity: 12,500

Players in: Simon Eastwood (Blackburn, free), Christian Ribeiro (Exeter, free), Aaron Martin (Coventry, free), Wes Thomas (Birmingham, free), Dan Crowley (Arsenal, loan), Curtis Nelson (Plymouth, free), Joe Rothwell (Manchester United, free), Rob Hall (Bolton, free)

Players out: Freddie Grant, AJ George (both released), Kemar Rofoe (Leeds, undisclosed), Jordan Bowery (Leyton Orient, free), Callum O'Dowda (Bristol City, undisclosed), Jake Wright (Sheffield United, free), Johnny Mullins (Luton, free), Pat Hoban (Mansfield, free), Danny Hylton (Luton, free), Sam Slcombe (Blackpool, free)

Key man: Liam Sercombe

Chances: Oxford's attacking football deserved promotion last season but it will be a struggle this time around with the departures of star players Kemar Rofoe and Callum O'Dowda. They have players who are proven at this level but it is hard to see any match-winners in the side and survival will be a success.

## P'BORO



Manager: Grant McCann

Position last season: 13th

Nickname: The Posh

Ground: ABAX Stadium

Capacity: 14,640

Players in: Matt Stevens (Barnet, pending tribunal), Brad Inman (Crewe, free), Gwion Edwards (Crawley, undisclosed), Hayden White (Bolton, free), Paul Taylor (unattached)

Players out: Kyle Vassell (Blackpool, free), Luke James (Bristol Rovers, loan), Harry Beautyman (Northampton, undisclosed), Shaun Brisley (Carlisle, free)

Key man: Michael Bostwick

Chances: It has been unusual for Peterborough not to be involved in the promotion shake-up for the past two seasons but you can expect normal service to be resumed in 2016-17. McCann has recruited well and the Posh favourite will be given both time and resources to get it right.



# LEAGUE 1 2016/17 - CLUB BY CLUB GUIDE

## PORT VALE



Manager: Bruno Ribeiro

Position last season: 12th

Nickname: The Valiants

Ground: Vale Park

Capacity: 19,052

Players in: Kjell Knops (Maastricht, free), Rigino Cicilia (Roda JC, free), Quentin Pereira (Stade De Reims, free), Anthony de Freitas (Monaco, free), Francisco Rosa, Paulo Tavares (Vitoria Setubal, free), Carlos Saleiro (Clube Oriental de Lisboa, free), Calvin MacIntosh (SC Cambuur, free), Christopher Mbamba (Hamkam, free), Jerome Thomas (unattached), Anton Forrester (Blackburn, free)

Players out: Theo Robinson, Michael Brown, Chris Birchall (all released), Louis Dodds (Shrewsbury, free), Carl Dickinson (Notts County, free), Ajay Leitch-Smith (Shrewsbury, free), Ryan McGivern (Shrewsbury, free)

Key man: Jerome Thomas

## ROCHDALE



Manager: Keith Hill

Position last season: 10th

Nickname: Dale

Ground: Spotland

Capacity: 10,249

Players in: Ollie Rathbone (Manchester United, free), Harrison McGahey (Sheffield, United, free), Niall Canavan (Scunthorpe, free)

Players out: Nyal Bell, Billy Hasler-Cregg, Joel Logan, Michael Rose, Dave Syers, Tom Kennedy (all released), Lewis Alessandra (Hartlepool, free), Grant Holt (Hibernian, free), Rhys Bennett (Mansfield, free), Ashley Eastham (Fleetwood, free)

Key man: Jamie Allen

Chances: Rochdale secured a top-10 finish last season and have done well to keep all of their key men. They have a strong group of players but will probably need a couple more new faces to mount a play-off push and could find themselves in a similar position this time around.

## SCUNTHORPE



Manager: Graham Alexander

Position last season: 7th

Nickname: The Iron

Ground: Glanford Park

Capacity: 9,088

Players in: Josh Morris (Bradford, free), Sam Mantom (Walsall, free), Duane Holmes (Huddersfield, free)

Players out: Niall Canavan (Rochdale, free), Sean McAllister, Andrew Boyce (both Grimsby, free), Gary McSheffrey (Doncaster, free), Dominic Vose (Grimsby, loan)

Key man: Paddy Madden

Chances: Scunthorpe will hope to pick up where they left off after having a storming finish last season, missing out on a play-off place on goal difference. The club has made no secret of their ambition while boss Alexander has recruited wisely and it will be no surprise to see them challenging again for a top-six finish.

## SHEFF UTD



Manager: Chris Wilder

Position last season: 11th

Nickname: Blades

Ground: Bramall Lane

Capacity: 32,702

Players in: Mark Duffy (Burton, free), Chris Hussey (Bury, nominal fee), James Wilson (Oldham, free), Jack O'Connell (Brentford, undisclosed), John Fleck (Coventry, free)

Players out: Bob Harris, Jose Baxter, Jamal Campbell-Ryce (all released), Callum McFadzean (Kilmarnock, free), Terry Kennedy (Alfreton, free), Harrison McGahey (Rochdale, free), Jay McEveley (Ross County, free), Florent Cuvelier (Walsall, free), Ryan Flynn (Oldham, undisclosed), Mark Howard (Bolton, free), Diego De Girolamo (Bristol City, free)

Key man: Billy Sharp

Chances: Wilder became the Blades' ninth manager in as many years in May

## SHREWSBURY



Manager: Micky Mellon

Position last season: 20th

Nickname: The Shrews

Ground: Greenhous Meadow

Capacity: 9,875

Players in: Jim O'Brien (Coventry, free), Ajay Leitch-Smith (Port Vale, free), Ryan McGivern (Port Vale, free), Ollie Lancashire (Rochdale, free), Gary Deegan (Southend, free), Louis Dodds (Port Vale, free), Antoni Sarcevic (Fleetwood, free), Adam El-Abd (Bristol City, free), Joe Riley (Bury, free)

Players out: Mickey Demetriou, Zak Whitbread, James Caton, Scott Vernon, Jermaine Grandison, Jordan Clark (all released), Jean-Louis Akpa Akpro (Barnet, free), James Collins (Crawley, free), Nathaniel Knight-Percival (Bradford, free), Matt Tootle (Notts County, free)

Key man: Jim O'Brien

Chances: Boss Micky Mellon has built a new team for the third successive summer and will hope the new faces will keep them away from another relegation battle. The Shrews have a decent budget compared to their rivals and should aim for a comfortable mid-table finish.

## SOUTHEND



Manager: Phil Brown

Position last season: 15th

Nickname: Shrimpers

Ground: Roots Hall

Capacity: 12,392

Players in: Jermaine McGlashan (Gillingham, free), Jason Demetriou (Walsall, free), Mark Oxley (Hibernian, free), Simon Cox (Reading, free)

Players out: Noel Hunt (released), Gary Deegan (Shrewsbury, free), Jack Payne (Huddersfield, undisclosed), Dan Bentley (Brentford, undisclosed), Kevan Hurst (Mansfield, free), Myles Weston (Wycombe, free), Cian Bolger (Fleetwood, free), Luke Prosser (Colchester, free)

Key man: Simon Cox

Chances: Southend probably over-achieved last season but will be hurt by the loss of Dan Bentley and Jack Payne, who were valuable players last season. But they have brought in some great signings in Simon Cox and Mark Oxley that could help the Shrimpers aim for a top-half finish.

## SWINDON



Manager: Luke Williams

Position last season: 16th

Nickname: Robins

Ground: County Ground

Capacity: 15,728

Players in: John Goddard (Woking, undisclosed), Lawrence Vigouroux (Liverpool, undisclosed), Conor Thomas (unattached)

Players out: Jeremy Balmey, Jamie Calvin, Josh Cooke, Lee Marshall, Fabien Robert, Drissa Traore (all released), Nicky Ajose (Charlton, undisclosed), Michael Smith (Portsmouth, undisclosed), Miles Storey (Aberdeen, undisclosed)

Key man: Lawrence Vigouroux

Chances: The Robins lost some valuable players in Nicky Ajose, Michael Smith and Miles Storey in the summer transfer window and the concern is the lack of experience in a young squad. That could affect their chances of progressing higher than last season but they should have enough to stay up.

## WALSALL



Manager: Jon Whitney

Position last season: 3rd

Nickname: The Saddlers

Ground: The Banks's Stadium

Capacity: 11,300

Players in: Simeon Jackson (free), Joe Edwards (Colchester, free), Frank Moussa (Southend, free), Erhun Oztumer (Portsmouth, free), Florent Cuvelier (Sheffield United, free), Jason McCarthy (Southampton, loan), Theo Vassell (Oldham, free)

Players out: Milan Lalkovic (Portsmouth, free), Romaine Sawyers (Brentford, free), Paul Downing (MK Dons, free), Jason Demetriou (Southend, free), Sam Mantom (Scunthorpe, free), Andy Taylor (Blackpool, free), Anthony Forde (Rotherham, undisclosed), Tom Bradshaw (Barnsley, £650,000)

Key man: Simeon Jackson

Chances: Manager Jon Whitney was the Saddlers' third boss last season after Dean Smith and Sean O'Driscoll but still took them to the play-offs, where they lost to Barnsley in the semi-finals. Walsall have punched above their weight in recent years and the loss of Bradshaw and Sawyers are big gaps to plug so a play-off push could be beyond them.



# LEAGUE 2 2016/17 - CLUB BY CLUB GUIDE

## ACCRINGTON



**Manager:** John Coleman  
**Position last season:** 4th  
**Nickname:** Stanley  
**Ground:** Wham Stadium  
**Capacity:** 5,057  
**Players in:** Callam Jones (West Brom, loan), Frazer Shaw (Leyton Orient, free), Elliot Parish (Colchester, free), Bastien Hery (Carlisle, free), Omar Beckles (Aldershot, free), Aaron Chapman (Chesterfield, free), Steven Hewitt (Burnley, free), Paddy Lacey (Barrow, free)  
**Players out:** Josh Windass (Rangers, compensation), Matt Crooks (Rangers, compensation), Ross Etheridge (Doncaster, free), Liam Wakefield (Morecambe, free), Piero Mingoia (Cambridge, free), Dean Winnard (Morecambe, free), Anthony Barry (Wrexham, free), Andy Procter (retired), Jason Mooney (Cliftonville, free)  
**Key man:** Billy Kee  
**Chances:** Stanley arguably overachieved last season after coming so close to automatic promotion in May. The loss of young stars Windass and Crooks, along with winger Mingoia, will hit them hard and Coleman's men may have to be content with mid-table at the end of the coming campaign.

## BARNET



**Manager:** Martin Allen  
**Position last season:** 15th  
**Nickname:** Bees  
**Ground:** The Hive  
**Capacity:** 5,176  
**Players in:** None  
**Players out:** Joe Gater, Ryan Gondoh, Charlie Kennedy (all released), Andy Yiadom (Barnsley, free), Mark Randall (Newport, free)  
**Key man:** John Akinde  
**Chances:** The Londoners had a decent campaign in the fourth tier of English football last term and the task now is to build on it. Allen does not intend to bring in any new players and will rely on youngsters so much depends on how they cope.

## BLACKPOOL



**Manager:** Gary Bowyer  
**Position last season:** 22nd in League One  
**Nickname:** Seasiders, Tangerines  
**Ground:** Bloomfield Road  
**Capacity:** 17,338  
**Players in:** Kyle Vassell (Peterborough, free), Jamille Matt (Fleetwood, free), Andy Taylor (Walsall, free), Kelvin Mellor (Plymouth, free), Colin Daniel (Port Vale, free), Danny Pugh (Bury, free), Sam Slocombe (Oxford, free)  
**Players out:** Colin Doyle (Bradford, £1), Emmerson Boyce, Charles Dunne, David Ferguson, Connor Oliver, Martin Paterson, Jarrett Rivers (all released)  
**Key man:** Jamille Matt  
**Chances:** New boss Bowyer has taken on a massive job and is tasked with halting the club's rapid decline while handling the toxic relationship between the owners and fans. Winning matches is the way to do that but an immediate return to League One looks unlikely.

## CAMBRIDGE



**Manager:** Shaun Derry  
**Position last season:** 9th  
**Nickname:** U's  
**Ground:** Abbey Stadium  
**Capacity:** 8,127  
**Players in:** Piero Mingoia (Accrington, free), George Maris (Barnsley, free), David Gregory (Crystal Palace, free), Medy Elito (Newport, free), Max Clark (Hull, loan), Joe Pigott (Charlton, free), Tom Dallison (Brighton, loan)  
**Players out:** Robbie Simpson (Exeter, free), Ryan Donaldson (Plymouth, free), Jimmy Spencer (Plymouth, free), Chris Dunn, Sam Beasant (both released)  
**Key man:** Luke Berry  
**Chances:** Play-offs will be the target for the U's in Derry's first full season in charge following a top-10 finish last season. They have added quality on the wings in Mingoia and Elito and the return of star striker Barry Corr from long-term injury could make the difference.

## CARLISLE



**Manager:** Keith Curle  
**Position last season:** 10th  
**Nickname:** Cumbrians  
**Ground:** Brunton Park  
**Capacity:** 18,202  
**Players in:** Joe McKee (Morton, undisclosed), Nicky Adams (Northampton, free), Russ Penn (York, free), Reggie Lambe (Mansfield, free), Jamie Devitt (Morecambe, free), Shaun Miller (Morecambe, free), Mike Jones (Oldham, free), Shaun Brisley (Peterborough, free)  
**Players out:** Antony Sweeney (Gateshead, free), Troy Archibald-Henville (Exeter, free), Bastien Hery (Accrington, free), Steven Rigg (Queen of the South, free), Derek Asamoah, Angelo Balanta, Arron Bradbury, Dan Hanford, Louis Pedro, Joe Thompson (all released)  
**Key man:** Nicky Adams  
**Chances:** The Cumbrians briefly threatened a top-six finish last season before falling short and it could be a case of history repeating itself. Curle's men perhaps lack the quality of some of the other promotion hopefuls and will therefore probably finish outside the top seven.

## CHELTENHAM



**Manager:** Gary Johnson  
**Position last season:** 1st in National League  
**Nickname:** Robins  
**Ground:** Whaddon Road  
**Capacity:** 7,066  
**Players in:** James Jennings (Forest Green, free), Daniel O'Shaughnessy (Brentford, free)  
**Players out:** Key man: Danny Wright  
**Chances:** Manager Johnson believes the Robins can push for a second successive promotion. While they may have momentum, it is debatable as to whether his players have the ability to keep up with the division's big boys and a top-half finish is probably as good as it will get.

## COLCHESTER



**Manager:** John McGreal  
**Position last season:** 23rd in League One  
**Nickname:** U's  
**Ground:** Colchester Community Stadium  
**Capacity:** 10,105  
**Players in:** Ben Wyatt (Maldon & Tiptree, undisclosed), Luke Prosser (Southend, free), Courtney Senior (Brentford, free), Denny Johnstone (Birmingham, undisclosed), Dexter Peter (unattached), Brennan Dickenson (Gillingham, free), Doug Loft (Gillingham, free), Kurtis Guthrie (Forest Green, undisclosed), Craig Slater (Kilmarnock, compensation)  
**Players out:** Gavin Massey (Leyton Orient, undisclosed), Elliott Parish (Accrington, free), George Moncur (Barnsley, undisclosed), Joe Edwards (Walsall, free), Marvin Sordell (Coventry, free), Alex Gilbey (Wigan, undisclosed), Darren Ambrose, Nicky Shorey, Marley Andrews, Kieran Bailey, Tyler Brampton, Tosin Olufemi (all released)  
**Key man:** Doug Loft  
**Chances:** Despite finding themselves in the fourth tier for the first time in 18 years, the U's will be up against a handful of arguably bigger clubs in their quest to bounce back to League One at the first attempt. A number of key players have departed and a play-off place may be the best they can hope for.

## CRAWLEY



**Manager:** Dermot Drummy  
**Position last season:** 20th  
**Nickname:** Reds, Red Devils  
**Ground:** Broadfield Stadium  
**Capacity:** 6,134  
**Players in:** Enzo Boldewijn (Almere City, free), Jason Banton (unattached), Glenn Morris (Gillingham, free), Josh Payne (Eastleigh, free), Josh Yorweth (Ipswich, free), Yusuf Mersin (Kasimpasa, free), Chris Arthur (Woking, free), Mitchell Beeney (Chelsea, loan), Jordan Roberts (Inverness, free), Alper Tursun (Alanyaspor, free), Mark Connolly (Kilmarnock, free), James Collins (Shrewsbury, free), Aryan Tajbakshh (unattached), Addison Garnett (QPR, free), Andre Blackman (unattached), Billy Clifford (Boreham Wood, free)  
**Players out:** Gwion Edwards (Peterborough, undisclosed), Sonny Bradley (Plymouth, free), Lee Barnard (Braintree, free), Andy Bond, Roarie Deacon, Lyle Della-Verde, Callum Preston, Shamir Fenelon, Gavin Tomlin (all released)  
**Key man:** Jimmy Smith  
**Chances:** A manager in his first professional role and a whole host of new signings make the Red Devils something of an unknown quantity. The West Sussex side flirted with relegation last season and, if they fail to put points on the board early, staying in the division may be beyond them.



# LEAGUE 2 2016/17 - CLUB BY CLUB GUIDE

## CREWE



Manager: Steve Davis  
Position last season: 24th in League One

Nickname: Railwaymen, Alex  
Ground: Gresty Road  
Capacity: 10,153

Players in: Ryan Lowe (Bury, free), Chris Dagnall (Hibernian, free), Liam Smith (Newcastle, loan), Alex Kiwomya (Chelsea, loan)

Players out: Brad Inman (Peterborough, free), Marcus Haber, Lauri Dalla Valle, David Fox, Chris Atkinson, James Baillie, Liam O'Neill, Fraser Murdoch, Joe Kearns, Joe Howell, Toby Mullarkey, Andre Brown (all released)

Key man: Ryan Lowe  
Chances: The Alex have had to rebuild following relegation and in Lowe and Dagnall they have secured a front two capable of scoring regularly at this level. In spite of the goal-threat, the coming season may be more about stabilising than mounting a genuine promotion bid and Davis' men have enough to secure a mid-table finish.

## DONCASTER



Manager: Darren Ferguson  
Position last season: 21st in League One

Nickname: Rovers  
Ground: Keepmoat Stadium  
Capacity: 15,231

Players in: Tommy Rowe (Wolves, free), Matty Blair (Mansfield, free), Ross Etheridge (Accrington, compensation), Mathieu Baudry (Leyton Orient, free), Joe Wright (Huddersfield, free), Gary McSheffrey (Scunthorpe, free), Tyler Garrett (Bolton, free), John Marquis (Millwall, free), Riccardo Calder (Aston Villa, loan)

Players out: Thorsten Stuckmann, Dany N'Guessan, Gary MacKenzie, Billy Whitehouse, Nathan Tyson (all released), Curtis Main (Portsmouth, undisclosed), Richard Chaplow (mutual consent)

Key man: John Marquis  
Chances: Rovers will be expected to make an immediate return to League One and Ferguson has laid solid foundations to achieve that with his recruitment and transfer dealing during the summer. Rovers will be in the play-off mix, if not challenging for a top-three finish.

## EXETER



Manager: Paul Tisdale  
Position last season: 14th

Nickname: Grecians  
Ground: St James Park  
Capacity: 8,541

Players in: Lloyd James (Leyton Orient, free), Robbie Simpson (Cambridge, free), Liam McAlinden (Wolves, free), Troy Archibald-Henville (Carlisle, free)

Players out: Clinton Morrison (Redditch, free), Christian Ribeiro (Oxford, free), Alex Nicholls (Barnet, free), Emmanuel Oyeleke, Jason Pope, Will Hoskins (all released)

Key man: Lee Holmes

Chances: The Grecians have been a steady mid-table side since being relegated from League One four years ago. Despite a handful of new signings, their squad does not appear to have been strengthened sufficiently for that to change.

## GRIMSBY



Manager: Paul Hurst  
Position last season: 4th in National League

Nickname: Mariners  
Ground: Blundell Park  
Capacity: 9,052

Players in: Danny Andrew (Fleetwood, free), Zak Mills (Boston, free), Rhys Browne (Aldershot, undisclosed), Andrew Boyce (Scunthorpe, free), Sean McAllister (Scunthorpe, free), Dan Jones (Hartlepool, free), Ashley Chambers (Dagenham, free), Luke Summerfield (York, free), Dominic Vose (Scunthorpe, loan), Ben Davies (Portsmouth, free), Tom Bolarinwa (Sutton, undisclosed), James Berrett (York, undisclosed)

Players out: Jon Nolan (Chesterfield, free), Danny East (Guiseley, free), Jon-Paul Pittman (Harrogate, free), Aristote Nsiala (Hartlepool, free), Pdraig Amond (Hartlepool, free), Richard Tait (Motherwell, free), Anthony Straker (Aldershot, free), Andy Monkhouse (Alfreton, free), Callum Bastock, Gregor Robertson, Craig Clay, Marcus Marshall, Josh Sunter, Conor Henderson (all released)

Key man: Ben Davies

Chances: The Mariners moved quickly to bring in a whole host of new players

## HARTLEPOOL



Manager: Craig Hignett  
Position last season: 16th

Nickname: Pools  
Ground: Victoria Park  
Capacity: 7,856

Players in: Ben Pollock (Newcastle, free), James Martin (Queen of the South, free), Nicky Deverdics (Dover, free), Jake Orrell (Chesterfield, free), Aristote Nsiala (Grimsby, free), Pdraig Amond (Grimsby, free), Lewis Alessandra (Rochdale, free)

Players out: Michael Duckworth (Fleetwood, undisclosed), Dan Jones (Grimsby, free), Scott Fenwick (York, free), Peter Denton, Scott Harrison, Ebby Nelson-Addy, Kudus Oyenuga, Harry Worley (all released)

Key man: Pdraig Amond  
Chances: Hartlepool raced away from danger last year following the appointment of Hignett and Pools fans will be keen to see what impact he can have over a full campaign. The signing of National League top-scorer Amond should increase their goal threat and another lower mid-table finish looks on the cards.

## LEYTON O



Manager: Andy Hessenthaler  
Position last season: 8th

Nickname: O's  
Ground: Brisbane Road  
Capacity: 9,271

Players in: Robbie Weir (Burton, free), Josh Doherty (Watford, free), Gavin Massey (Colchester, undisclosed), Callum Kennedy (AFC Wimbledon, free), Tom Parkes (Bristol Rovers, free), Jordan Bowery (Oxford, free), Yvan Erichot (Sint-Truiden, free)

Players out: Connor Essam, Blair Turgott, Bradley Pritchard, Gary Woods, Kevin Nolan (all released), Mathieu Baudry (Doncaster, free), Frazer Shaw (Accrington, free), Lloyd James (Exeter, free), Jobi McAnuff (Stevenage, free)

Key man: Jordan Bowery  
Chances: Orient's off-field shenanigans appear to have subsided for the moment and Hessenthaler is building the makings of a handy-looking squad. Whether that will be enough to challenge for promotion remains to be seen.

## LUTON TOWN



Manager: Nathan Jones  
Position last season: 11th

Nickname: Hatters  
Ground: Kenilworth Road  
Capacity: 10,226

Players in: Alan Sheehan (Bradford, free), Johnny Mullins (Oxford, free), Christian Walton (Brighton, season-long loan), Glen Rea (Brighton, undisclosed), Jordan Cook (Walsall, free)

Players out: Alex Lawless, Jake Howells, Paul Benson, Isaac Galliford, Scott Griffiths, Ryan Hall, Mark Onyemah, Luke Trotman (all released), Elliot Justham, Paddy McCourt, Matt Robinson (mutual consent), Curtley Williams (Dagenham, free)

Key man: Cameron McGeehan

Chances: Luton disappointed and underachieved last season but improved markedly following the appointment of Jones, who won 11 of his 21 matches after landing the job in January. If Jones can repeat a similar win ratio over a full campaign then the Hatters will not be too far away.

## MANSFIELD



Manager: Adam Murray  
Position last season: 12th

Nickname: Stags  
Ground: Field Mill  
Capacity: 9,186

Players in: Kevan Hurst (Southend, free), Pat Hoban (Oxford, free), Rhys Bennett (Rochdale, free), CJ Hamilton (Sheffield United, free), George Taft (Burton, free), Danny Rose (Bury, undisclosed), Ashley Hemmings (Dagenham, free)

Players out: Reggie Lambe (Carlisle, free), Matty Blair (Doncaster, free), Anthony Dwyer, Liam Marsden, Craig Westcarr (all released)

Key man: Matt Green

Chances: The Stags have added a few quality additions to their party and that could see an improvement on last season's 12th-place finish, although a play-off push could be a step too far.



# LEAGUE 2 2016/17 - CLUB BY CLUB GUIDE

## MORECAMBE



**Manager:** Jim Bentley  
**Position last season:** 21st  
**Nickname:** Shrimps  
**Ground:** Globe Arena  
**Capacity:** 6,476  
**Players in:** Dean Winnard (Accrington, free), Luke Conlan (Burnley, free), Liam Wakefield (Accrington, free), Cole Stockton (Tranmere, loan), Rhys Turner (Oldham, free)

**Players out:** Jamie Devitt (Carlisle, free), Shaun Miller (Carlisle, free), Adam Dugdale (Eastleigh, free), Andy Parrish, Alan Goodall, Shaun Beeley, Chris Doyle, Charlie Bailey, Jack Kelleher, Nathan Bondswell (all released)  
**Key man:** Barry Roche

**Chances:** Just four wins from 24 in 2016 saw the Shrimps plummet from mid-table security to a relegation scrap last season and had it not been for the terrible form of Newport, Dagenham and York, they could well have fallen out of the Football League. Bentley has a big job to prevent that happening this year.

## NEWPORT



**Manager:** Warren Feeney  
**Position last season:** 22nd  
**Nickname:** Exiles  
**Ground:** Rodney Parade  
**Capacity:** 7,850

**Players in:** Jamie Turley (Eastleigh, free), Scot Bennett (Notts County, free), Mark Randall (Barnet, free), Joss Labadie (Dagenham, free), Jennison Myrie-Williams (Sligo Rovers, free), James Bittner (Plymouth, free), Sean Rigg (AFC Wimbledon, free), Jack Compton (Yeovil, free), Jazzi Barnum-Bobb (Cardiff, free), Dan Butler (Torquay, free), Ben Tozer (Yeovil, free), Jon Parkin (Forest Green, free)

**Players out:** Andrew Hughes (Peterborough, free), Scott Boden (Inverness, free), Medy Elito (Cambridge, free), Mark Byrne (Gillingham, free), Alex Rodman (Notts County, free), Yan Klukowski (York, free), Dean Morgan (Throttur, free), Matt Partridge, Seth Nana-Twumasi, Rhys Taylor, Joe Green, Nathan Ralph, Scott Barrow (all released)  
**Key man:** Jon Parkin

**Chances:** After a season of struggle which included two managerial changes,

## NOTTS CO



**Manager:** John Sheridan  
**Position last season:** 17th  
**Nickname:** Magpies  
**Ground:** Meadow Lane  
**Capacity:** 20,229

**Players in:** Adam Collin (Rotherham, free), Matt Tootle (Shrewsbury, free), Jonathan Forte (Oldham, free), Michael O'Connor (Port Vale, free), Carl Dickinson (Port Vale, free), Richard Duffy (Eastleigh, free), Alex Rodman (Newport, free)

**Players out:** Scot Bennett (Newport, free), Kyle De Silva (mutual consent), Liam Noble (Forest Green, free), Roy Carroll, Blair Adams, Jordan Aghatise, Colby Bishop, Will Hayhurst, Taylor McKenzie, Lartey Sarpong, Ronan Murray, Filip Valencic (all released)  
**Key man:** Alex Rodman

**Chances:** Rodman was Newport's star performer last season and should shine for the Magpies. With John Sheridan at the helm anticipation will be high for a strong season at Meadow Lane, and a play-off push is likely.

## PLYMOUTH



**Manager:** Derek Adams  
**Position last season:** 5th  
**Nickname:** Pilgrims  
**Ground:** Home Park  
**Capacity:** 17,874

**Players in:** Ryan Donaldson (Cambridge, free), Yann Songo'o (Blackburn, free), Connor Smith (AFC Wimbledon, undisclosed), Gary Miller (Partick, free), Karleigh Osborne (Bristol City, free), Jordan Slew (Chesterfield, free), James Spencer (Cambridge, free), David Goodwillie (Aberdeen, free), Nauris Bulvitis (unattached), Oscar Threlkeld (Bolton, free), Sonny Bradley (Crawley, free), David Ijaha (Whitehawk, free)

**Players out:** Peter Hartley (Bristol Rovers, free), James Bittner (Newport, free), Gregg Wyld (Millwall, free), Curtis Nelson (Oxford, compensation), Kelvin Mellor (Blackpool, free), Carl McHugh (Motherwell, free)

**Key man:** Graham Carey  
**Chances:** There has been a big turnover of players at Home Park since the Wembley play-off final defeat but that should not stop the Pilgrims challenging again. They will be among the play-off contenders and automatic promotion is not out of the question.

## PORTSMOUTH



**Manager:** Paul Cook  
**Position last season:** 6th  
**Nickname:** Pompey  
**Ground:** Fratton Park  
**Capacity:** 21,100

**Players in:** Carl Baker (MK Dons, free), Danny Rose (Northampton, free), Matt Clarke (Ipswich, swap), Curtis Main (Doncaster, free), Milan Lalkovic (Walsall, compensation), Michael Smith (Swindon, undisclosed), Drew Talbot (Chesterfield, free)

**Players out:** Adam Webster (Ipswich, swap), Brian Murphy, Chad Field, Snorre Nilsen (all released)  
**Key man:** Carl Baker

**Chances:** Cook has made some eye-catching signings, not least Baker and Lalkovic, in a bid to go one better than last season's play-off failure. But Pompey have been promotion favourites for the last three seasons and still not managed it so do not expect too much.

## STEVENAGE



**Manager:** Darren Sarll  
**Position last season:** 18th  
**Nickname:** Boro  
**Ground:** Broadhall Way  
**Capacity:** 6,722

**Players in:** Matt Godden (Ebbsfleet, undisclosed), Jamie Jones (Preston), Andrew Fox (Peterborough, free), Rowan Liburd (Reading, undisclosed), Jake Hyde (York, free), Jobi McAnuff (Leyton Orient, free)

**Players out:** Louis-Michel Yamfam (Charlton, undisclosed), Chris Whelpdale (AFC Wimbledon, free), Dean Parrett (AFC Wimbledon, free), Adam Marriott (Lincoln, free), Jerome Okimo, Aaron O'Connor, Jack Jebb, Lee Cox, Charlie Adams, David McAllister, Rohdell Gordon (all released)  
**Key man:** Jobi McAnuff

**Chances:** Stevenage should have enough to stave off relegation but no more. At only 33 years of age, manager Sarll lacks experience and a slow start to the season could see his men face a long, hard slog to stay above the bottom two.

## WYCOMBE



**Manager:** Gareth Ainsworth  
**Position last season:** 13th  
**Nickname:** Chairboys  
**Ground:** Adams Park  
**Capacity:** 9,617

**Players in:** Dayle Southwell (Boston, undisclosed), Paris Cowan-Hall (Millwall, loan), Myles Weston (Southend, free), Adebayo Akinfenwa (AFC Wimbledon, free)

**Players out:** Aaron Holloway (Fleetwood, undisclosed), Max Kretzschmar (Woking, free), Gozie Ugwu (Woking, free), Alex Lynch, Ryan Sellers (both released)  
**Key man:** Michael Harriman

**Chances:** After a strong start last season, the Chairboys plummeted out of the promotion reckoning. Ainsworth's men will be hopeful of a play-off place come May but a top-seven finish will be a big ask and mid-table is more realistic.

## YEOVIL



**Manager:** Darren Day  
**Position last season:** 19th  
**Nickname:** Glovers  
**Ground:** Huish Park  
**Capacity:** 9,565

**Players in:** Otis Khan (Barnsley, loan), Liam Shephard (Swansea, loan), Tom Eaves (Bolton, free), Joe Lea (Southampton, free), Josh Ezewele (West Brom, free), Ryan Hedges (Swansea, loan), Jonny Maddison (Leicester, free)

**Players out:** Jack Compton (Newport, free), Ben Tozer (Newport, free), Wes Fogden (Havant & Waterlooville, free), Chris Weale, Leroy Lita, Marc Laird, Simon Gillett, Jordan Gibbons, Jakub Sokolik, Mark Beck (all released)  
**Key man:** Artur Krysiak

**Chances:** Yeovil are another side who could get dragged into trouble. Despite never being in danger of going down last season, they struggled at the wrong end of the table and their summer recruitment has been restricted to signing young, inexperienced players on loan or free transfers.







## Non league FOOTBALL



### Romsey boss Samuels excited for what future holds



Andy Samuels

ANDY Samuels is excited by what the future holds for Romsey Town – both on and off the pitch.

“The club have made known their ambitions for the coming season and beyond and hopefully the results on the pitch will help make that happen,” said the Bypass Ground boss.

“There is a real buzz around the place that things are really beginning to move forward.

“There’s a tremendous amount of hard work and planning going on behind the

scenes, but we all know it’s results on the pitch that we’ll all be judged by.

“I can see at first hand what’s happening and I’m excited by it and determined to make sure me and my players play our part in giving the club the success on the field that all the hard work off it deserves.”

On paper Town face a tricky start to the new Sydenhams One campaign, but Samuels will take it as it comes.

“It’s immaterial to be honest,” he said. “We have to play every side home and

away during the season and that doesn’t change.”

It all kicks off this Tuesday (7.45pm) at home to Folland Sports and Samuels is urging Romsey residents to get behind their team.

“We have a side that’s proud to represent the club and the town and we’d love as many people as possible to support us this season,” he said.

Bypass Ground admission prices have again been frozen this year at £5 adults and just £2 concessions.

### ‘Withdrawn interest’

**HAMWORTHY United boss Carl Poore insisted he withdrew his interest in Chris Senior and Ross Lloyd once he had realised they were committed to Christchurch.**

Poore admitted he had sounded out his first campaign at the County Ground but had no intention of taking things further once they had nailed their colours to the Priory mast.

“We didn’t realise they were still at Christchurch,” said Poore. “I enquired about them, but when it became apparent they were sorted for the season we left it there.

“There was no formal attempt to sign them, it was just the normal pre-season enquiry as to what they were up to.” Poore has been busy bolstering his squad with goalkeeper Jamie Horton, who has relocated to the area from Cornwall, and experienced Wessex League player Aaron Corby from Hamworthy Recreation.

Ex-Poole Town defender Sam Clarke has put pen to paper and Connor Phillips and Jordan Cole have re-signed.

Jordan Fisk, Max Brimmon and Liam Donachy have all been training with United after spending last season with Verwood Town, but Poore missed out on the signing of ex-Eastleigh, Bashley and Winchester midfielder Liam Green.

The Hammers kick off the 2016/17 campaign at newly-relegated Bashley on Tuesday (August 1, 7.45pm).

● **WIMBORNE Town** have completed the signing of former Arsenal youngster Josh Hartley.

Maggies manager Matty Holmes picked out Hartley as a shining light in the club’s summer development trials.

The Dorset outfit have also announced that their former No1 Jason Harvell has returned to Cuthbury as goalkeeper coach.

Wimborne kick off their Southern One South & West campaign at home to Bishops Cleeve next Saturday (August 6).



Carl Poore.

# Former Alresford boss joins Romsey management team

Samuels has also sealed deals for several players

**MARTIN Beck has joined the management team at Sydenhams One outfit Romsey Town.**

Beck, who stepped down as Alresford Town boss at the end of last season, will work alongside manager Andy Samuels at the Bypass Ground.

Romsey have several new playing arrivals too, with the likes of experienced ex-Alresford quartet John and Brian Howard, John Mulhern and Sam Carter all listed on the official Sydenhams Wessex website, but Samuels prefers to play his cards close to his chest.

When asked about his recent acquisitions, he said: “Yes, we’ve made some good signings, but we wanted to keep them quiet at the time.

“At the back end of last season, we sat down as a management team and drew up our summer targets and I’m delighted we got all but one of those signed.

“But giving other clubs the ‘heads up’ on what we’re doing on the pitch by making announcements left, right and centre isn’t what we’re about.

“I’m really looking forward to the season starting now,” he added. “We’ve brought in quite a few new lads and with them has come some real quality too.

“We retained the players we really wanted to retain and I’ve also managed to add ‘Becco’ (Martin Beck) to the first team management set up, so all in all I’m very pleased with how the squad’s looking.

“For the first time we’ve got not only good quality within the squad but also real competition for places all over the park, which gives us much better strength in depth.

“Pre-season has gone very well, we’ve pushed the lads hard in training and they’ve responded as we expected them to do.

“Of course we want to win every game we play and we want the play-



Martin Beck has joined Romsey Town

ers to want that too. To develop a winning mentality and mindset as a squad is extremely important this year, but the pre-season games are more of an opportunity to work on things from training as well as to look at players in game scenarios.”

So does he think, following on from last season’s ninth-placed finish and with his new signings added, Romsey

could be pushing for a top-six spot and even promotion this term?

“I’d like to think so, but I expect every other manager in the league would like to think so too!” smiled Samuels.

“It’s going to be a longer and tougher season with more sides in the league this year and, from what we’ve heard, the top sides have also recruited well.

“I’ve never been one to make public predictions, but we’ve set out our aims and objectives and we’re very clear in what they are.

“We tailed away at the back end of last season quite badly for a variety of reasons and, but for that, we should have finished inside the top six, so we certainly want to rectify that and then push on from there”



# Non league FOOTBALL



Team Solent celebrate a goal in last season's final

## Team Solent side to defend trophy

**HOLDERS** Team Solent will open their next defence of the Southampton Senior Cup on home territory.

James Taylor's Southampton Solent University side have had something of a love affair with the famous old trophy in recent seasons.

Having pipped Hamble Club 3-2 in the 2014/15 final, they really went to town this year battering Blackfield & Langley 5-0 at St Mary's Stadium.

Their pursuit of a treble will kick off in the second round this season when the winners of the first round tie between Nursling and Hythe & Dibden visit Test Park.

Losing finalists Blackfield will

entertain either Netley Central Sports or Southampton University, while Winchester City also get a home start. The Citizens will welcome either Hedge End Town or Upham to the Denplan City Ground in round two.

Brockenhurst boss Pat McManus has been pitted against his old club QK Southampton.

First round (to be played on or before September 17): AFC Gulf Western v Bush Hill, BTC Southampton v AFC Stoneham, Bishops Waltham v Winchester Castle Res, Colden Common v Sholing Res, Comrades v Priory Rovers, Durlay v Michelmersh & Timsbury, Hamble Club v Winchester Castle, Hedge End Town v Upham, Lyndhurst v

Athletico Romsey, Netley CS v Southampton University, Nursling v Hythe & Dibden, Park Sports v Infinity, Sway v Alderbury.

Second round (to be played on or before October 15): AFC Botley v Colden Common or Sholing Res, Alesford Town v Bishops Waltham Dynamo or Winchester Castle Res, Blackfield & Langley v Netley CS or Southampton University, Braishfield v Warsash, Brockenhurst v QK Southampton, Chamberlayne v BTC Southampton or AFC Stoneham, Fawley AFC v Sway or Alderbury, Folland Sports v Durlay or Michelmersh & Timsbury, Hamble Club Res v Comrades or Priory Rovers, Hedge End Rangers v AFC Gulf Western or Bush Hill, Hedge End Rangers Res v Lyndhurst or Athletic Romsey, Lymington Town v Hamble Club or Winchester Castle, Sholing v Park Sports or Infinity, Team Solent v Nursling or Hythe & Dibden, Totton & Eling v Locks Heath, Winchester City v Hedge End Town or Upham.

### FIXTURES (week beginning August 1)

Monday, August 1  
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Team Solent v Alesford Town.  
FRIENDLIES  
Gosport Borough v Eastleigh, Havant & Waterlooville v AFC Totton.

Tuesday, August 2  
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE  
Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Horndean, Andover Town v Sholing, Bashley v Hamworthy, Bemerton HH v Brockenhurst, Bournemouth Poppies v Fawley, Cowes Sports v Blackfield & Langley (7.30), Fareham v Newport IOW (7.30), Moneyfields v Lymington.  
Division One: Alton v Tadley Calleva, Laverstock & Ford v Pewsey Vale, Romsey v Folland Sports.

Wednesday, August 3  
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Verwood v Portland, Whitchurch v Amesbury.  
Division One: Downton v Christchurch.

Friday, August 5  
FA CUP  
Extra preliminary round\*: Lymington Town v Hamworthy Utd (at New Milton), Sholing v Bournemouth Poppies.

Saturday, August 6  
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE  
Barrow v Aldershot, Boreham Wood v Forest Green, Bromley v Tranmere Rovers, Dagenham & Redbridge v Southport, Eastleigh v Guiseley, Gateshead v Chester, Macclesfield v Torquay, Maidstone v York, North Ferriby v Braintree, Sutton v Solihull Moors, Woking v Lincoln, Wrexham v Dover.  
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH  
Bishops Stortford v Hampton & Richmond, Dartford v Wealdstone, East Thurrock v Hungerford, Eastbourne Borough v Hemel Hempstead, Ebbsfleet v Poole Town, Maidenhed v Gosport Borough, Margate v Bath City, Oxford City v Welling, St Albans v Concord Rangers, Truro v Chelmsford, Weston-super-Mare v Whitehawk.  
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE  
Division One South & West: AFC Totton v Hereford, Barnstaple v Yate, Bridgwater v North Leigh, Didcot Town v Swindon Supermarine, Mangotsfield Utd v Bideford, Salisbury v Evesham Utd, Shortwood Utd v Taunton Town, Slimbridge v Winchester City, Tiverton Town v Larkhall Athletic, Wantage Town v Paulton Rovers, Wimborne Town v Bishops Cleeve.

FA CUP  
Extra preliminary round: Andover Town v Royal Wootton Bassett, Bashley v Horndean, Bemerton HH v Keynsham Town, Blackfield & Langley v Hallen, Bradford Town v Fareham Town, Bridport v Alesford Town, Brockenhurst v Laverstock & Ford, Cadbury Heath v Folland Sports, Cowes Sports v Brislington, Hengrove Athletic v Verwood Town, Highworth Town v Tadley Calleva, Lydney Town v Team Solent, Moneyfields v Christchurch, Oldland Abbotonians v Newport IOW, Sherborne Town v Amesbury Town, US Portsmouth v Melksham Town, Whitchurch Utd v Cribbs.  
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE  
Division One: Andover New Street v Fleet Spurs, Baffins Milton Rovers v East Cowes Vics, Downton v Romsey, Hythe & Dibden v Ringwood, New Milton v Totton & Eling, Pewsey Vale v Alton, Shaftesbury v Hamble Club, Weymouth Res v AFC Stoneham.  
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE  
Senior Division: Bush Hill v Headley Utd, Clanfield v Overton, Fleetlands v QK Southampton, Liphook v Hedge End Rangers, Liss Athletic v Locks Heath, Paulsgrove v Andover Lions, Stockbridge v Hayling Utd, Winchester Castle v Infinity.  
\*The FA Cup extra preliminary round tie between Fawley AFC and AFC Portchester has been switched to Sunday, August 7 at the Waterside Sports & Social Club, 3pm kick-off.

# Stags could see four-figure crowd for the opening game

## AFC Totton have Hereford up first

**AFC TOTTON** are planning for a four-figure crowd to descend on the Testwood Stadium for their season's opener against Hereford next Saturday (3pm).

Although word from the Edgar Street club is that some 300-plus Bulls supporters will be heading to Hampshire for the Southern One South & West curtain raiser, talk among the fans is that it could well be double that.

Hereford – risen from the ashes of the old Hereford United – were crowned Midland Premier champions last season, playing in front of crowds that put several professional clubs to shame.

During their inaugural season, they averaged a league attendance of 2,836 – a figure higher than six League Two sides.

With expectations high for the Bulls' debut Southern League season, Totton – sponsored by New Century Bingo – are anticipating something of a full house.

"Hereford have said they're bringing 300-plus fans, but if you look on the website the fans are talking more like 600," said Totton chairman Andy Straker.

"We're going to plan for 1,000 people and see what it brings.

"It's a big game and there's a lot of interest in the match in this area too.

"We've even had Saints fans telling us they're coming."

Football-wise, the Stags couldn't have been handed a tougher start with Hereford – last term's beaten FA Vase finalists – hell-bent on whizzing up through the leagues.

But Straker shrugged: "We've got to play them sometime and we'll get a bigger crowd next Saturday than we would if we'd been playing them in January because everyone's so ex-



AFC Totton's Testwood Stadium, Right – Andy Straker

cited about the new season.

"We probably needed a bit longer to prepare, but it's a great game to start with.

"We've got Salisbury here too for the Bank Holiday fixture at end of August (29) and that will bring another big crowd in.

"They're two great games for us – particularly if we win them!"

The Stags were given a testing pre-season workout last Saturday by former South & West rivals Sholing, who now ply their trade back in the Wessex League.

It was 2-2 at half-time with broth-

ers Dan and Barry Mason snuffing out a two-goal Totton lead earned by Nathaniel Sherborne and a Mike Gosney free-kick.

Totton won it with the last kick of the game when new full-back Curtis Angell set up you debutant Callum Hellyer to calmly beat onrushing Sholing 'keeper Jordan Brooks for 3-2.

"Sholing are no mugs," said Straker.

"If they don't finish first in the Wessex League this season, they'll be second, but I fancy them to win it."





## Non league FOOTBALL



Eastleigh Ladies

EASTLEIGH are relaunching women's football for the upcoming 2016/17 season.

Eastleigh Ladies originally ran from 2007 for five seasons, climbing their way through the Hampshire Women's League before lack of facilities saw the team disband.

Nicky Beeton and Amy Wakefield, who both played for the side in their previous guise, are

back on board – Wakefield having been the club's leading goalscorer in their last season under her maiden name of Boucher.

She has since married ex-Eastleigh winger David Wakefield.

The new-look side is managed by Mark Agombar with Mike Castle taking on the secretarial role, assisted by Eastleigh FC club sec-

retary Ray Murphy.

Other players signed on so far are Samantha Hide, Hollie Agombar, Kirsty Garner, Tash Konczak, Lauren Hill, Leah Shave, Chelsea Owton, Lauren Stone and Kirsten Williams.

Further squad additions are being finalised with Lauren Medhurst expected to sign.

Eastleigh have been elected into the top tier

of the Hampshire Women's League where they will play Bournemouth Electric, AFC Bournemouth, AFC Stoneham, Bournemouth Sports, Mudeford Phoenix, Rushmoor, Southampton Saints Reserves and Warsash Wasps.

Eastleigh Ladies have a home friendly against AFC Bournemouth Ladies tomorrow (July 31) kicking off at 2pm.

# Ex-Cherries chairman pulls out of deal with Poole Town

**FORMER AFC Bournemouth chairman Eddie Mitchell has pulled out of a deal to buy a 51 per cent stake in National League South new boys Poole Town.**

Dolphins vice-chairman Chris Reeves revealed the U-turn had resulted from "one or two differences" that the two sides had been "unable to broker", *writes Andy Mitchell.*

Sandbanks-based property developer Mitchell purchased an initial two-year option in December 2013, a provision he then extended until the end of May this year.

With just days left, Mitchell declared his intention to complete the deal with Reeves, later stating everything had been "agreed in principle" and that both parties had "reached an understanding" despite the expiry date passing.

The bulk of the shares Mitchell had been due to purchase were set to come from chairman Clive Robbins and the estate of his late father Arthur Robbins, which amounts to just under 65 per cent of the club.

Reeves stated in June that he had no plans to sell any of his 25 per cent stake. The other 10 per cent is owned by director Pippa Daniels.

Reeves insisted Mitchell would continue to aid the club's quest to find a new site for a permanent home.

Reeves said: "We carried on talking after the end of the option period but the fact it had expired meant Eddie was not in a position to automatically exercise his option.

"A deal had been agreed in principle but it didn't prove possible to get



Eddie Mitchell.

it over the line. One or two differences arose which we were unable to broker so the terms of the takeover could not be finalised.

"Eddie remains a good friend of the club and we will continue to liaise with him over plans to resolve our long-term future. He is still fiercely interested and committed to trying to secure a new ground.

"I continue to enjoy dialogue with him in that respect. I would not like

anyone to think his interest in the club has been diminished in any way by the fact the share deal has fallen through.

"Poole Town remains his club but for the moment, talks of a takeover have finished."

Asked whether or not negotiations could be revisited, Reeves replied: "While you can never say never, the talks have ended rather than being put on hold. I don't think it is right to

suggest talks will resume but as with any committed supporter with influence, you never know what is around the corner."

Reeves added the withdrawal would accelerate Poole's search for added investment.

"The challenges for the club are immense," he said.

"I hope the increased profile we have will produce some new blood, hopefully even at board level."

## Swanage set sights

SWANAGE Town & Herston are harbouring hopes of following Portland United's footsteps back into the Sydenhams Wessex League.

Although the Swans tailed off towards the end of last season to finish eighth in the Dorset Premier League, manager Tim Brown has higher expectations this time round.

"We want to get back in the Wessex League," he said. "We belong there. We have the potential, the team is there to do it."

Brown still takes confidence from an eight-match winning streak shortly after his appointment in September.

"That run gave us a lot of belief. Why shouldn't we be aiming high?" he asked.

Barring a four-year return to the Dorset ranks, Swanage were a Wessex club from 1990/91 through to 2001/02.

Portland returned to the Sydenhams scene last season after a nine-year absence and won the Division One title and promotion to the Premier elite.



Tim Brown



## Non league FOOTBALL



Pat McManus

### Long injury not severe as first feared

THE good news for Brockenhurst boss Pat McManus is that Jake Long's injury sustained against Winchester City last weekend was not as bad as first feared.

The bad news is that he has still lost his new skipper for the start of the Sydenhams Premier campaign – and Long is not the only one in the wars.

Pre-season has brought a host of bumps, bruises, tears and strains for the Badgers ahead of the big Wessex kick-off at Bemerton on Tuesday.

Long, who was taken to hospital

midway through the first half of the 1-1 draw with Winchester, has a grade one strain that will sideline him for four to six weeks.

#### Late tackle

Joe Arnold is out for a similar length of time with a torn quad muscle, while fellow centre-back Joe Chamberlain was the victim of a late tackle in the friendly against Laverstock & Ford.

"Jake's injury is not as bad as we suspected, but it's still a bit of a blow to lose

him for up to six weeks and to be deprived of both our centre-halves," rued McManus.

"Hopefully Joe Chamberlain will start the season and we've also got (former Folland Reserve) Callum Williams who we're developing into a centre-half.

Brock, who proudly marched through to the third qualifying round of the FA Cup last season before bowing out to Wealdstone, will start this year's campaign at home to Laverstock next Saturday.

### Top praise for Whites

**YEOVIL** Town manager Darren Way heaped praise on Salisbury's work ethic during Tuesday's pre-season friendly.

He was impressed with the Whites' hunger to compete in a well-contested warm-up match which ended 3-2 in the Glovers' favour, writes Joel Holt.

"We were certainly tested and it's always nice to bring a team down here. They are very welcoming. It was a good workout for us," said Way.

"Salisbury have got a lot of players who can prove they can play League football and we expected that.

"I don't really know the competition Salisbury will face (in the Southern One South & West) but you could see Steve (Claridge, manager) has got them well organised with good balance in the team and some young, hungry players that look like they want to win.

"Steve has done well to get the club back from where it was.

"It was finished at one stage and they've done well to come back."

Way, 36, visited Old Sarum last summer where he watched the re-formed Whites play one of their first games. The opposition that night were Premier League side AFC Bournemouth.

#### Donations

Harry Cornick, scorer of the Cherries' goal in a 2-1 defeat, was the reason Way and his assistant Terry Skiverton were there.

They were keen to sign the former Christchurch forward, who subsequently joined them on loan.

"Last year I came down here I had to pay to get in, but that was money well spent as we got Harry Cornick out of it," added Way.

"We got a good player there and we even gave donations as well."

Tuesday's friendly was set up by Whites vice-chairman Ian Ridley, who has known Skiverton for the best part of 20 years.

They used to work together on Sky One drama series Dream Team in which Ridley was a writer for the show and Skiverton helped coach the actors.



Adam Brice, right

# Loyal vice-captain Barker to wear armband due to injury

## New skipper Long hands over duties for start of season

**AN INJURY** to new captain Jake Long means former Brockenhurst skipper and current vice-captain Mark Barker will be donning the armband again for the start of the Sydenhams Premier Division season.

Wideman Barker is easily the club's longest-serving player – and also the most wanted, writes Wendy Gee.

Having resisted a couple of advances from Salisbury last term, he has just turned them down again.

He also got an invitation to trial for Poole Town in last week's friendly at Eastleigh, but again declined the offer.

Both interested clubs have gone up a league this season – Salisbury into the Southern One South & West and Tom Killick's Poole to the heady heights of the Vanarama National League South.

But it seems that the player nicknamed 'Sparky' only has eyes for Grigg Lane.

"Salisbury came back in for Mark with an informal approach by [director of football] Mick Jenkins asking if his situation had changed," said McManus.

"Sparky was also invited to play for Poole against Eastleigh, but he declined that too in favour of remaining a Badger. He's loyal!"

The decision to hand over the captaincy to Long was made to allow Barker to concentrate on his own game and recapture the form that made him the standout performer of Brock's magical FA Cup run last term.

"The players look up to Mark in any case because he's been at the club the longest," McManus explained.

"We want him to lead by example just by doing what he does best on the pitch rather than having to get the team up and going.

"But to not have him as vice-cap-



Brockenhurst's Mark Barker

tain would have been a step too far and, for as long as Jake is out injured, Mark will go back to being captain.

"Mark played a lot of games last year and we want him to get back to the level he was."

The biggest shining light of pre-season has been Brock's other talented

wideman, Will Tickle, who recently returned to Grigg Lane from Lyminster Town.

"Will's terrorised everyone he's come up against," said the boss, who is licking his lips at the prospect of playing Barker one side, Tickle the other and Ryan Long through the

middle.

"Up to now we haven't been able to play the three of them together," said McManus.

"Ryan's been working and we had to play Mark at left-back against Winchester because we had a couple of defenders away at weddings."



## Non league FOOTBALL



Lee Burch.

### Lee Burch roars back as boss of Millwall Lionesses

LEE Burch is back in football as manager of Women's Super League (WSL) outfit Millwall Lionesses.

Burch, former manager of Hythe & Dibden, was most recently head coach at AFC Totton in the Southern One South & West.

He left Testwood Park in early May after one season with the Stags and will now put his coaching skills to good use helping the Lionesses out of trouble in the WSL2, where they sit second to bottom.

Burch, who has worked as an FA skills coach, spent seven years on the south coast working within Southampton and Hampshire's Centre of Excellence, developing female players for the elite pathway.

He holds the UEFA A Licence, FA Youth Award and UEFA B goalkeeper qualification.

"I'm absolutely delighted to be joining Millwall Lionesses," he said. "It was a job that I was interested in from the moment I saw it.

"I had already been to watch the team play Bristol City a few weeks ago and was impressed with their performance, attitude and the whole set-up.

"The objectives are clear - to start to get the results and the points on the board that the performances have warranted."

Neil Cassar, Hampshire FA's CEO, tweeted: "Great to hear @burchy9 appointment as first team manager of @millwallioness - proof that hard work and drive will pay off."

### Claridge keen on deal for Matthews

**BOSS** Steve Claridge wants experienced striker Robbie Matthews to pen a new deal at Salisbury.

Matthews, 34, is currently weighing up his career options but has agreed to join the Whites for pre-season.

He was involved in their 4-0 win over Downton in which Steve Walker grabbed a brace and Amesbury Town trialists Cameron Roach and Tyler Brockway found the target.

"I like Robbie," said Claridge who brought the 6ft 4in former Salisbury City, Eastleigh and Kidderminster striker - nicknamed Mooncat - back to the Ray Mac at the beginning of last season.

"He's been thinking about what he wants to do, but I hope he decides to come back permanently.

"He had some injury problems last season, but if we can manage things with him, he definitely gives us something different up front and is also good cover at the back.

"He's got a demanding full-time job and I know how difficult it can be for players with the standards and commitment I ask of them, but it would be good if he could be part of things."

Meanwhile, three summer trialists have decided they are unable to commit to the Whites' forthcoming Evo-Stik Southern League Division One South & West campaign, which starts at home to Evesham United next Saturday, August 6 (3pm).

Josh Warren, formerly with AFC Portchester, and Joe Sanger and Seb Dawes, both of Bemerton Heath Harlequins, have withdrawn from Salisbury's pre-season programme.

Several more trialists were still in the fold this week, including Liam Angel and Dafydd Jones from Newport County, Adam Brice from Gosport Borough and Danny Finnigan from Amesbury.

*Cont on facing page*



Robbie Matthews

# Football community pays its tributes to their 'Mr Netley'

'A larger than life character with a wicked humour'

**THE** death of Netley Central Sports stalwart Bob Crompton was keenly felt by the Southampton football family this week.

But it says a lot about the 84-year-old that a smile was never far away from anyone's face when they reminisced about the man popularly known as 'Mr Netley', writes Wendy Gee.

"He was a larger than life character with a wicked sense of humour," chuckled ex-referee Greg Dickson, now assistant secretary/media secretary of the Southampton Divisional FA which Bob presided over as president for almost 30 years.

"From a refereeing point of view, Bob was very quick to let you know if you'd made a mistake.

"But after the game you could have a drink with him. He was so knowledgeable and any issues you had with football, he was your first port of call.

"He was a nice guy to talk to and he would always put you straight.

"He did everything at Netley Central. I remember refereeing there in the Hampshire League and he was out marking the pitch."

Bob, who served as SDFFA president from 1988 until the day he died, was Netley born and bred, dividing much of his time between Netley Central Sports & Social Club and Netley Central Sports FC where he started out as a goalkeeper.

Few knew him better than his great friend and neighbour Dave Smith, who sits on the SDFFA Cup Committee and is the Hampshire Area Benevolent Officer.

Speaking from home, Smith said: "I can see Bob's house from where I am now.

"He was born in that house in Station Road and lived there all his life.

"He must have been associated with Netley Central for 60-odd years. He started out as a goalkeeper and went on to be secretary, treasurer, chair-



Bob Crompton pictured presenting the Southampton Vets Cup to Hambleskipper Wayne Ghosh.

man...you name it.

"That's why they called him Mr Netley."

Bob and his late wife Molly had two daughters, Hazel and Angela, and five grandsons.

And, as Dave recalled, it was a standing joke at the many football dinners Bob attended that Molly was not the world's best cook.

"When we went to a dinner, he'd say: 'Molly, that's what a roast potato is supposed to look like, or that's how gravy should be - without the lumps!' he laughed.

"Bob had been ill for a long time. His legs were bad and he couldn't walk at all. He had a mobility scooter which he couldn't drive properly and

kept crashing it into the greenhouse where he parked it! That was Bob for you, he was full of fun!"

Mike Harvey, secretary of the SDFFA and former Netley Central Sports FC secretary, agreed: "Bob was a real character.

"He put a considerable amount into the club just to keep it going. Netley Central was his life.

"He lived between the ground and the social club, which was perfect for him

"He liked his whisky, but then you'd get a round of beers in and Bob would ask to see what it tasted like and down half a pint, bless him!"

Hampshire FA chief executive officer Neil Cassar added: "We were

saddened to hear that Bob Crompton had passed away.

"Bob had been a member of Hampshire FA Council for 51 years and, although he had been unable to attend meetings in recent years due to ill health, he still enjoyed receiving regular updates about football in the county.

"He received the prestigious FA 50-Year Long Service Award in 2000 - an achievement he was extremely proud of.

"Bob has been one of the game's true characters and will be sorely missed by all.

"Our thoughts are with Bob's family and friends - local football is a poorer place without him."



## Non league FOOTBALL



# Malone applauds Masters' 'magnificent' work for City

## Ex-boss unable to boost club's staff due to budget

**DAVE Malone knew the moment news broke that team boss Paul Masters had left Winchester City, the finger would be pointed at him.**

But while history suggests Malone can be a tricky character to work with, Masters' departure had nothing to do with a breakdown in relations between the pair, *writes Wendy Gee*.

The crux of the split was that Winchester simply did not have the money the manager felt was needed to drive the club forward.

During his two spells with City, straight-talking director of football Malone has parted company with a long line of managers, some of whom found him a challenge to deal with.

But ex-Saints' reserves midfielder Masters wasn't one of them.

"Me and Dave had a few words and arguments over football matters, but personally we get on really well," he said.

"I've left Winchester because I've taken the club as far as I can with the infrastructure that's there."

Having led the Citizens to the Southern One South & West play-off semi-finals and the Hampshire FA Senior Cup final, ex-Saint Masters was ambitious to push on to the next level.

But City's tight budget meant he was unable to boost the playing and coaching staff as he would have liked.

Midfielder Stuart Green, goalkeeper Lewis Noice and striker Sam Wilson have been recruited to help offset the departures of Warren Bentley, Leigh Mills, Brendan Norris and Jake Newton.

Masters, though, felt more was required if City were to build on their success of last term.

"I'm competitive and I want my team to be. I needed back-up in certain areas to make it better and it wasn't there," he explained.

"It's not a criticism of the club, I've had two absolutely fantastic years there and had a group of players who massively overachieved last season.

"But you can't stand still. With the time you put into management, you need to be moving things on, but the budget didn't allow it.

"The job became frustrating from February onwards. I honestly thought that if we'd brought in one or two players or kept those we had, we'd have won the league.

"Maybe in hindsight I should have left at the end of the season, but I felt maybe we could get through it.

"But I realise that would mean people putting more money in to



Paul Masters and, inset, David Malone.

subsidise the club and I'm not criticising anyone. Everyone's cost-cutting in life in general and non-League has suffered more than most – and why should people put money in?"

"The money should be in the club infrastructure somewhere along the line, but it's not."

Confirming there had been no fallout with Masters, Malone said: "Paul and I had a very good working relationship and, in fairness to him, he's done a good job.

"But we haven't got the budget he thinks is appropriate. Financially it's tight for us and we've got to run things in the best interests of the club.

"I understand Paul's frustrations and share a lot of them, but Paul Murray (chairman) and I can't commit money we haven't got.

"I've enjoyed working with Paul (Masters), but we couldn't agree a way forward. He probably thinks he can't cap what we did last season,

particularly with no Warren Bentley or Leigh Mills.

"We got a lot out of our players for the money we spent last season and, in that respect, we've made a rod for our own backs."

Malone added: "We would like to place on record our thanks for the magnificent job Paul has done over the course of the past two seasons.

"He worked tirelessly to move the club forward and we will remain indebted to him and wish him well."

## Several players racing to be fit

from facing page

"I've still got a few places left in the squad," said Claridge. "I'm particularly looking at wide players, but we've lost out on a few because we're not paying the money people might think we do."

Salisbury have several players racing to be fit for the start of the new season.

Skipper Kane O'Keefe (ankle) and Callum Hart (shoulder) are both out and Brandon Mundy has joined the casualty list after sustaining ankle ligament damage against Moneyfields on Saturday.

Ex-Folland Sports defender Calum Brockway is unlikely to play until September after undergoing shoulder surgery.

"It's been a frustrating pre-season what with missing out on a few targets, the injuries we have and players not being available at certain times," rued Claridge.

"But we're getting there. What we have already will be a strong, competitive unit. Now it's just a question of finding the right few players at the right price that will give us that bit extra."

### Equalised

Salisbury lost an entertaining friendly 3-2 to League Two outfit Yeovil Town in front of a 691 Ray Mac crowd on Tuesday.

Former Otterbourne striker Tommy Wright, on loan from Sutton United, equalised with the help of a hefty deflection after Ryan Hedges had given the Glovers a 17th-minute lead.

Hedges and Tom Eave struck early in the second half to put Yeovil 3-1 up before a 90th-minute Lewis Benson free-kick was headed into his own net by Town's Josh Ezewe.

Unfortunately for the Whites, they lost another player to injury with ex-Blackfield & Langley winger Danny Young exiting with a shoulder problem.



Kane O'Keefe





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185/55R15	£31.50	£38.00	£49.50	£61.50
195/55R16	£36.50	£43.50	£61.50	£71.50
205/55R16	£29.50	£39.00	£47.00	£52.00
215/55R16	£38.00	£44.00	£65.00	£81.00
195/50R15	£31.50	£36.50	£42.50	£47.00
205/50R17	£40.50	£47.50	£56.50	£83.00
215/50R17	£40.50	£49.50	£61.50	£91.50
225/50R17	£45.00	£55.00	£69.00	£91.00
195/45R16	£37.50	£42.00	£50.50	£58.00
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## A can't put down read

*The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Olympics*

By Daniel James Brown

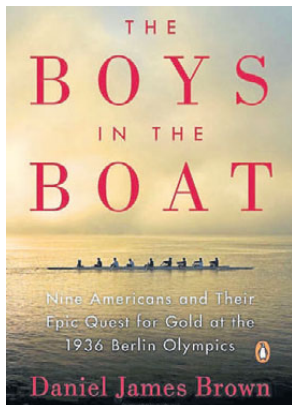
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Unexpected sporting pleasures, whatever they might be, invariably add to life's rich tapestry. This is particularly true if you've travelled to experience a particular form of sporting contest for the first time, have little idea what to expect and it turns out to be absolutely compelling.

Four years ago, at Eton Dorney, your correspondent spent the day watching Olympic rowers in action. It was one of those wonderful, 'I'm hooked' experiences, a first-time, first-hand glimpse of the effort required to be successful at a sport to which I had never previously paid much attention.

Reading Daniel James Brown's brilliant *The Boys in the Boat* rekindled memories of that fantastic day in 2012; if Hollywood has not yet snapped up the book's film rights, it's reasonable to assume it soon will.

At times, Brown's work reads like a sporting supplement to Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*, underpinned as it is with reminders of *Depression America* and an unwavering focus on those lower down the social scale; our hero is Joe Rantz, a young man of modest



means with much to prove to himself and his family.

The story is of the American rowing eight (and their cox), each from the State University of Washington, and their quest to reach the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. The main characters are not, however, sepia-tinted versions of the modern-day 'jock' likely to be found at Ivy League institutions; these are less well-heeled individuals who none the less recognise their chance to undermine the efforts of Hitler's Minister of Propaganda, Joseph Goebbels, to turn the Games into a politicised glorification of the so-called Aryan race.

A quick Google search would give the game away in terms of outcome, but I would urge you not to do that. Read instead every part of the journey from rowing club trials to the build-up to the Olympic final and Brown's astute observation, understood by all nine men in the boat.

A metaphor for 1930s America, there are numerous slumps and setbacks, large dollops of drama and danger, but these features, expertly conveyed by the author, only serve to enhance the book's uplifting finale.

Read it.

# A season of lows

**IT'S been a tough summer so far for Hampshire Cricket.**

Indeed, one of the toughest the county has had to contend with for many years.

Hampshire have encountered a variety of problems ever since the 2016 domestic season started.

An early season injury crisis was followed by some poor results in both Championship and T20 Blast cricket.

Then came the sad news that batsman Michael Carberry had been diagnosed with a cancerous tumour, followed by head coach Dale Benkenstein resigning due to family reasons.

Here, the *Sports Pink* looks at Hampshire's season to date.

## April 10

New signing Reece Topley picks up a serious injury on the first day of his competitive debut.

Batting in the opening Championship game against Warwickshire at The Ageas Bowl, the England left arm seam bowler suffered a fractured hand while batting.

Topley had visited the crease far earlier than he would have expected, as Hampshire collapsed to 87-7.

The 22-year-old went on to score a first-class career best of 15 before he was dismissed by fellow England bowler Chris Woakes.

Hampshire, bowled out for 202, then allowed the visitors to post 360 with Ageas Bowl specialist Ian Bell hitting 174.

With Hampshire 185-5 in their second innings when the game ended, they were happy that the whole of the second day had been lost to rain.

## April 17-20

Main strike bowler Fidel Edwards suffers a freak injury before the final day of Hampshire's second Championship game.

The West Indian suffered a broken ankle while playing football in the warm-up at Headingley against Yorkshire.

The 34-year-old seamer played a huge part in Hampshire avoiding relegation from Division One of the County Championship in 2015.

He took 45 wickets in the competition, including 10 wickets as Hampshire beat Nottinghamshire in the final match of the season at Trent Bridge.

Edwards' injury left Hampshire without SIX bowlers for Yorkshire's second innings.

Already without Topley (fractured hand), Gareth Berg (knee) and Ryan Stevenson (back), Hampshire, already minus injured skipper Jimmy Adams (ankle), suffered further injuries to Liam Dawson (abdominal strain) and Chris Wood (knee) as Yorkshire amassed 593-9 declared in their first innings.

Johnny Bairstow (246) and No 8 Liam Plunkett (123) added 227 for Yorkshire's seventh wicket in their



Fidel Edwards was ruled out for the season after injuring himself playing football



Reece Topley was injured on the first day of his Hampshire debut in early April and has not played since

huge total – at the time the 19th highest total Hampshire had ever conceded.

Bairstow's innings is also the 19th highest individual score against Hampshire.

Thanks to centuries from Sean Ervine and James Vince, the visitors make the draw.

## April 26

Fidel Edwards has surgery on his injury and won't play again in 2016.

## April 26

More injury woe for the county as young off-spinner Brad Taylor suffers ankle ligament damage in a fall

at the Ageas Bowl, where the county are playing a Second XI Championship match against Somerset II.

The England Under-19 captain slipped on a stairwell and could be sidelined for up to a month.

## May 8-11

Up against a Lancashire side in-

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# at the Ageas Bowl



Chris Wood, a key member of Hampshire's one day bowling attack, has not played since picking up an injury in May



Tom Alsop's maiden List A century against Surrey has been one of the individual highlights of Hampshire's season

cluding England's James Anderson, Hampshire are thrashed by an innings and 94 runs.

Having won the toss and elected to bat, Hampshire were routed in their first innings for 109.

Lancashire ended the first day on 157-1 and eventually reached 456. Anderson took six wickets in the game as the visitors were dis-

missed for 253 second time around.

## May 19

And the injury woe goes on. This time it's seam bowler Chris Wood, 25, who is ruled out for the rest of the season with a knee injury.

Left-arm Wood – a key member

of the county's one-day bowling attack – sustained the injury whilst bowling against Middlesex in the County Championship on May 4.

## May 24

Reece Topley, who still hasn't played since fracturing his hand on his debut, is ruled out for three

months with a "partial stress fracture of the lumbar spine".

The former Essex bowler has a history of back injuries – in 2014 he sat out an England Lions tour and missed the first two months of the domestic season with another stress fracture and he endured a recurrence of the injury later that summer.

## May 22-25

A rare bit of good news as Hampshire win their first Championship game of 2016, beating Nottinghamshire by 69 runs at The Ageas Bowl.

Young spinner Mason Crane takes six wickets in the game, while West Indian Tino Best – brought in to solve Hampshire's acute bowling shortage – takes 4-47 in Notts' second innings.

## May 27

Hampshire's first T20 Blast game of 2016 saw them give T20 debuts to three bowlers – Tino Best, Gareth Andrew and Ryan McLaren.

The county had reached six successive T20 Finals Days – winning the tournament in 2010 and 2012 – but started the new campaign by losing to Middlesex at Uxbridge.

Dawid Malan smashed 93 off 48 balls as Middlesex posted 195-6. Hampshire promptly subsided to 96-8 en route to 126 all out.

## May 29-June 1

Another innings loss for Hampshire in the Championship, this time against Middlesex at Northwood.

Hampshire reduced their hosts to 14-2 on the first morning, but that was as good as it got.

Skipper Adam Voges (160 not out), Dawid Malan (147) and wicket-keeper John Simpson (100 not out) took Middlesex to 467-3 declared.

Hampshire were then skittled for 131 in their first innings and, following on, for 220 second time around to lose by an innings and 116 runs.

## June 2

Hampshire bounced back from that thrashing to beat Kent in the T20 at The Ageas Bowl.

Michael Carberry (54) top scored against his former county as the hosts successfully defended 158-8.

## June 5

Hampshire rattle up 310-4 in their opening Royal London Cup 50-over tie against visiting Essex – and still lose.

Adam Wheeler top scores with 90 and young Tom Alsop has to retire hurt on 83, before Tom Westley's 110 propels Essex to victory.

*continued on page 32*

## Hamilton in charge after Hungary win

**LEWIS Hamilton has taken charge of this season's Formula One title race after winning last weekend's Hungarian Grand Prix.**

**The 31-year-old Briton has turned a 43-point deficit into a six-point lead in just six races, and this is how he has done it...**

MONACO: Hamilton arrived at Monaco following his dramatic first-lap crash with Rosberg which saw both Mercedes cars crash out. But while Hamilton could qualify only third, he relished the wet-dry conditions in Monte Carlo. Rosberg, who was slowing Hamilton up in the early phase of the race, was ordered out of his way, and Hamilton then benefited from Daniel Ricciardo's pit-stop gaffe to win his first race of the season. ROSBERG 106 HAMILTON 82

CANADA: Hamilton started on pole but slipped to second after banging wheels with Rosberg at turn one. Rosberg was edged onto the grass and fell back down the pack, while Sebastian Vettel took the lead. Vettel then looked odds-on to win but Ferrari's two-stop strategy backfired and Hamilton, who pitted for tyres on one fewer occasion, won. Rosberg was only fifth. ROSBERG 116 HAMILTON = 107

BAKU  
A mistake from Hamilton in qualifying meant he started the sport's inaugural race in Azerbaijan only 10th. And his charge back through the field was curtailed by an incorrect engine setting, which, under the sport's strict radio rules, Mercedes were



Lewis Hamilton celebrates winning the Hungarian Grand Prix.

forbidden from telling him how to fix. Down on power for much of the race, he finished only fifth as Rosberg, unchallenged, won. ROSBERG 141 HAMILTON = 117

AUSTRIA  
Rosberg appeared on course to win for a third successive time in Austria, but on the final lap he made a mistake at turn one which enabled Hamilton to close the gap to his Mercedes team-mate. As Hamilton attempted to pass Rosberg, the German crashed into his team-mate. While Hamilton went on to win a dramatic race, Rosberg crossed the line in fourth and was penalised by the stewards with a 10-second time penalty - which did not affect his finishing position - and hit with two points on his licence. ROSBERG = 153 HAMILTON = 142

BRITISH  
Hamilton started on pole and then revelled in the inclement conditions to cruise to his third successive win in front of his home fans. Rosberg finished behind his team-mate but was demoted to third after he was found to be in breach of the radio rules as he struggled with a gearbox issue in the closing stages. ROSBERG = 168 HAMILTON = 167

HUNGARY  
After beating Rosberg on the long run down to turn one, Hamilton then controlled the race to win for a record fifth time in Hungary. The victory also enabled Hamilton to move ahead of his team-mate for the first time this season. HAMILTON = 192 ROSBERG = 186



## Timeline of the Russia's doping saga

**RUSSIA could still send a large team to the Rio Olympics after the country avoided a ban from the Games on Sunday.**

Here, the *Sports Pink* looks at how the story has developed.

Dec 2014: German broadcaster ARD reveals claims of drug-taking in Russian athletics, leading the IAAF ethics commission to examine allegations of corruption and doping and the World Anti-Doping Agency to set up an independent commission.

Aug 2015: New claims are made by ARD that Russian and Kenyan athletes are doping, based on a leaked IAAF database of 12,000 blood tests from 5,000 competitors.

Nov 2015: Former IAAF president Lamine Diack is charged with corruption, money-laundering and conspiracy by French police on suspicion he took bribes to cover up failed doping tests. Russia's athletics team are suspended by the IAAF and Russia's anti-doping organisation, RUSADA, is suspended by WADA.

Jan 2016: Russian athletics chief Valentin Balakhnichenov and IAAF marketing consultant Papa Massata Diack are banned for life by the IAAF ethics commission for taking bribes to cover up failed doping tests.

May: Claims the Russian Sports Ministry and the FSB security services were involved in an organised doping campaign which included at least 15 medalists from the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics are made by the former



**Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev**

head of Russia's anti-doping laboratory, Grigory Rodchenkov, living in exile in the United States.

June: The IAAF council votes to extend the ban on the Russian athletics federation. Russian sports minister Vitaly Mutko is implicated in covering up for coaches exposed as flouting doping regulations in a new ARD broadcast.

July 18: McLaren releases his report for WADA detailing the degree of state-run doping in Russia at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics and other events. The investigation finds the Russian Ministry of Sport "directed, controlled and oversaw" the manipulation of urine samples provided by Russian athletes at the Sochi anti-doping laboratory.

July 21: An appeal by the Russian Olympic Committee and 68 of its track and field athletes against the ban from the Rio Olympics is rejected, the Court of Arbitration for Sport announced.

July 22: The International Paralympic Committee opens suspension proceedings against the Russian National Paralympic Committee over the "unimaginable scale of institutionalised doping in Russian sport", with a view to banning the team. Former Soviet Union president Mikhail Gorbachev calls for Russia to be allowed to compete at Rio 2016.

July 24: Twelve days before the Games opening ceremony, the IOC's executive board decides against a blanket ban of the Russia team and asks each sport to vet proposed Russian competitors individually.

# Tough summer at

from page 31

## June 7

Liam Dawson's 40-ball unbeaten 68 helps Hampshire win by five wickets under the Duckworth/Lewis method in a Royal London Cup tie at Middlesex. After the hosts had rattled up 295-8, Hampshire were 204-5 and ahead on run rate when the rain came.

## June 8

After a T20 loss at Glamorgan, Hampshire lost a high-scoring game at Canterbury by eight runs – Kent having scored 193-8.

## June 9

Hampshire suffer a heavy T20 loss at Surrey. Replying to the hosts 188-5, they slip to 79-7 en route to 108 all out – young Lewis McManus (41) top scoring.

## June 14

Hampshire concede a huge 352-3 total to Gloucestershire in the Royal London Cup.

Michael Klinger (166no) and Chris Dent (142) put on 242 for the first wicket at Bristol.

Due to No 8 Gareth Andrew thrashing an unbeaten 70 off 41 balls, Hampshire close only ten runs short.

## June 15

Tom Alsop scores his maiden List A century (116) as Hampshire post 289-8 in the Royal London Cup against visiting Surrey. In a tense finish, Hampshire win by just six runs.

## June 19

Hampshire's T20 woes go on. Dismissed for 133 at Somerset, Chris Gayle cracks 52 off 39 balls as Somerset romp to a six wicket victory.

## June 24

Another T20 loss, this time by five wickets to Essex after only managing to post 135-8.

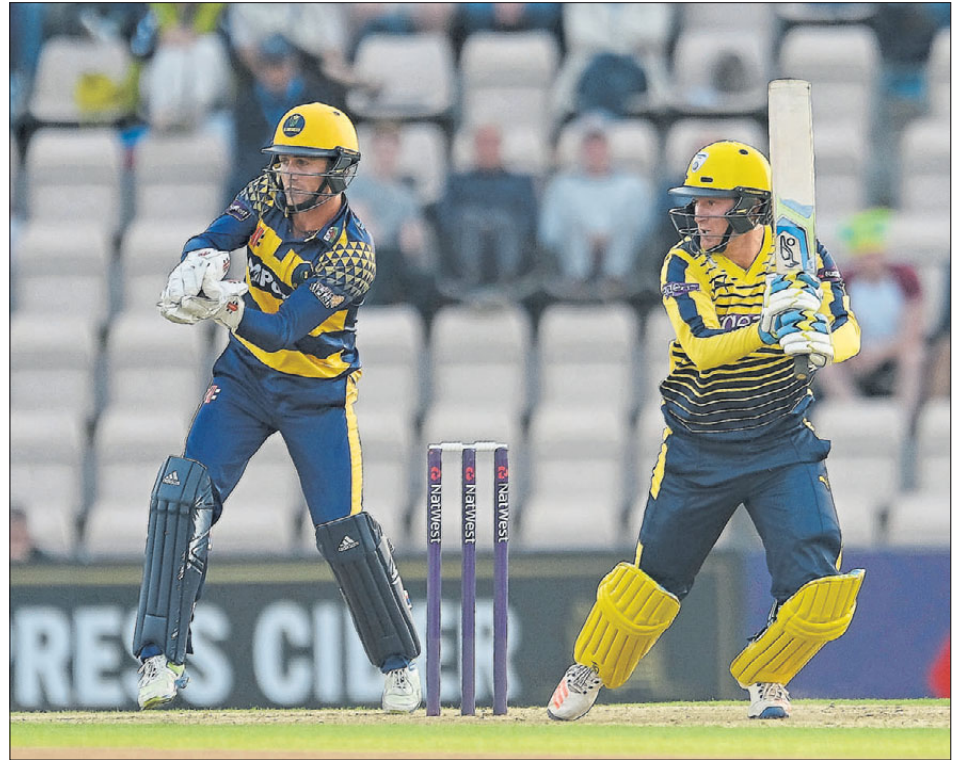
## June 26-29

Winning the toss and choosing to bat against Somerset at The Ageas Bowl, Hampshire were bowled out for 219 before the visitors amassed 474. Hampshire were 173-4 in their second innings before rain washed out the entire final day.

## July 3-6

Hampshire pile up 472 in their first innings at Durham, with half centuries for Sean Ervine, Will Smith, Jimmy Adams and Gareth Berg and 48 from Michael Carberry, but Durham reply with 421-9 declared in a drawn Championship encounter in the north east.

## July 8



Liam Dawson on his way to an unbeaten 76 in the T20 win against Glamorgan



Joe Weatherley hits out during Hampshire's T20 Blast victory over Glamorgan

Another T20 loss, this time by an agonising three runs after Essex successfully defend 153-6. James Vince makes a rare appearance in between his England outings and top scores with 62.

## July 10-13

Adam Wheeler hits an unbeaten

204 as Hampshire post their highest score of the season – 531 at Warwickshire. But hopes of forcing a much needed first class win are dashed when the entire third day is washed out, and the hosts reach 398-6 in their only innings.

## July 14

Sad news from The Ageas Bowl as Hampshire reveal batsman Michael Carberry has been diagnosed with a cancerous tumour. He had missed the Championship game against Warwickshire due to feeling unwell.

## July 14

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# The Ageas Bowl



Michael Carberry, seen here celebrating his T20 century against Lancashire in 2013, was diagnosed with a cancerous tumour earlier this month



Adam Wheeler scored a double century for Hampshire in their Championship encounter with Warwickshire

Finally, something to lift the gloom. Liam Dawson hits his best ever T20 score – an unbeaten 76 – and takes 4-23 in a win over Glamorgan at The Ageas Bowl, only Hampshire's second win in the competition.

**July 15**

Another success. Young Brad Wheel bowls a fantastic last over as Hampshire with a south coast T20 thriller by a single run against Sussex at Hove.

**July 17-20**

Hampshire conceded a massive first innings total en route to their

third innings defeat in the 2016 County Championship.

Helped by unbroken eighth wicket stand of 222 between Ben Foakes (141no) and skipper Gareth Batty (110no), Surrey post 637-7 declared.

It is the second highest team total ever at The Ageas Bowl and the 11th highest Championship total against Hampshire.

Spinner Mason Crane toils through 51 overs, and his 3-210 haul is the second most expensive bowling analysis in Hampshire's Championship history.

In reply, young Lewis McManus (132no) compiles his maiden Championship hundred and puts on 96 for the 10th wicket with Brad Wheel.

But Hampshire fail to make the follow on figure and, second time around, are dismissed for 201 to lose by an innings and 13 runs.

**July 22**

Hampshire lose their penultimate T20 Blast game to Middlesex at The Ageas Bowl. Ex-Hampshire man George Bailey hits a career best 76 as the visitors post 181-6, and Hampshire are bowled out for 138.

**July 23**

Hampshire reveal that head coach Dale Benkenstein has left the club with immediate effect for family reasons, and has returned to South Africa.

**July 26**

After only managing 229 all out in a Royal London Cup tie at home to Kent, Hampshire allow visiting openers Daniel Bell-Drummond (91) and Joe Denly (105) to put on 203 for the first wicket.

Though Hampshire take five wickets in four overs, the damage has already been done.

For the second home game running, a former Hampshire player impresses for the visitors. Following Bailey's runs for Middlesex, this time it's Matt Coles taking 6-56 for Kent.

**July 27**

Hampshire's inconsistent one-day form continues as the bowlers hold their nerve to complete a nine-run win over Sussex at Hove.

This keeps alive their hopes of reaching the knockout stages of the Royal London Cup.

Chasing 269 to win, a fifth-wicket stand of 125 in 17.3 overs between Chris Nash and Ben Brown gave Sussex hope after they were reduced to 109 for four.

But Brown was superbly caught by wicketkeeper Lewis McManus diving to his right after making a List A best of 62 midway through the 47th over.

The 48th began with 31 needed but Brad Wheel conceded just three from it – his second superb piece of "death" bowling at the venue in a matter of weeks following his last over T20 heroics.

Sussex's race was run when Chris Jordan was bowled off the next delivery by Ryan McLaren.

Sussex required 17 from the final over but Wheel restricted them to seven.

Hampshire had earlier been indebted to a stylish 92 from Jimmy Adams.

## Facts and stats about Le Tour ...

France has most Tour de France wins - 21 riders having claimed 36 titles between them. Belgium are second with 10 cyclists providing 18 wins.

Most stages won by a cyclist is 34 by Belgian Eddy Merckx

The longest ever route was in 1926 - 3,570 miles. In 2016 it was 2,193 miles.

The smallest winning margin was in 1989 by eight seconds when American Greg LeMond beat Frenchman Laurent Fignon.

Until the 1960s, alcohol was a common drink during the race. Competitors would drink it to numb the pain, until it was banned for being considered as a stimulant.

The least amount of finishers was in 1919 when only ten finished.

The most days a cyclist has spent wearing the leader's yellow jersey is 96 by Belgian Eddy Merckx (1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1974 and 1975).

Italian Mario Cipollini once taped a picture of Pamela Anderson to his handlebars in the hope that him looking at it would boost his testosterone and



Pamela Anderson.

give him an edge over his opponents.

Four people have won the race five times - Jacques Anquetil (France), Eddy Merckx (Belgium), Bernard Hinault (France) and Miguel Indurain (Spain). Indurain won the event five times in a row between 1991 and 1995.

Four Riders have died while competing. In 1995 Fabio Casartelli crashed at 88 kph while descending, Tom Simpson died in 1967 of a heart attack after taking amphetamines and attempting to climb Alpe d'Huez, in 1935 Francisco Cepeda crashed into a ravine, and Adolphe Heliere drowned in 1910 during a rest day.

Oldest stage winner is Belgian Firmin Lambot in 1922 aged 36. The youngest stage winner is Frenchman Henri Cornet in 1904 aged 19.

First ever winner of the race was Frenchman Maurice Garin. He won again in 1904 but was later disqualified for cheating (he was caught taking a train during the race).

The first race was in 1903 and consisted of six stages. In 2016, 21 stages were completed.

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## Things we've learned from summer tours

A NEW Premier League campaign is approaching which means teams have dusted off their passports to go on pre-season tours.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at five things we have learned from this summer's tours so far:

### JURGEN KLOPP TAKES NO NONSENSE

Liverpool manager Klopp banished defender Mamadou Sakho from the Reds' pre-season tour of the United States after the 26-year-old was late three times. The France international was sent packing by the German in a no-nonsense approach, even though Sakho is currently nursing an Achilles problem which will prevent him starting the new Premier League campaign. Quoted in several newspapers, Klopp said: "He missed the departure of the plane, he missed a session and then was late for a meal. I have to build a group here, I have to start anew, so I thought it maybe made sense that he flew home to Liverpool and after eight days, when we come back, we can talk about it."

### MANCHESTER CITY'S PLAYERS ARE OUT OF



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp celebrates

### SHAPE

At least some of them are, according to new boss Pep Guardiola. The Spaniard has been quick to impose the strict discipline which served him well at Barcelona and Bayern Munich as he seeks to make sure his players are fit for the new season. He has banned junk food and City defender Gael Clichy said: "If your weight is too high, you're not training with the team. You hear it a lot but, for my part, it's the first time any manager has really done it. And we have a few players who are not training with the team yet."

### NOT QUITE PITCH PERFECT

Manchester United's eagerly-anticipated friendly with Manchester City in China was washed out as the club's summer tour to the Far East lurched to a disappointing end. Extreme weather saw heavy rain ruin the surface in Beijing, with the first Manchester derby set to be played on foreign soil called off just five hours before kick-off.

It only served to cap what was a frustrating tour for new United manager Jose Mourinho.

Cont on facing page

# Duckett on a par

**BEN Duckett joined an exclusive club earlier this week when he scored a remarkable double century for England Lions.**

Watched by Lions colleague Liam Dawson, the Hampshire all rounder, Duckett blasted an undefeated 220 in a tri-series game against Sri Lanka A at Canterbury.

As a result, Duckett has taken his place in the top ten List A innings of all time.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the exalted company he now finds himself in.

### Ali Brown

The Surrey batsman flayed the highest ever List A individual score while playing against Glamorgan in a Cheltenham & Gloucester Trophy tie at The Oval in 2002.

Brown struck a barely believable 268 off 160 balls - with 30 fours and 12 sixes - as Surrey posted a mammoth 438-5 total off their 50 overs.

Glamorgan made a stunning effort to chase down their huge target, only losing by nine runs following centuries from Robert Croft (119) and David Hemp (102).

### Rohit Sharma

The Indian opener hit the highest individual ODI score against Sri Lanka at Eden Gardens in Kolkata in November 2014.

Playing in a 50-over game, he lashed 264 off 173 balls with 33 fours and nine sixes as India piled up 404-5.

They eventually won by 153 runs.

### Shikhar Dhawan

Playing for India A in a tri-series game against South Africa in Pretoria in 2013, Dhawan struck 248 off 150 balls with 30 fours and seven sixes.

His huge innings helped India amass 433-3 in 50 overs. The hosts replied with 394 all out.

### Martin Guptill

The New Zealander announced himself as one of the most explosive batsmen in world cricket by hammering 189 in an ODI against England at Hampshire's Ageas Bowl in 2013.

But he improved on that in the 2015 World Cup, hammering a sensational 237 not out off only 163 balls against the West Indies in the quarter final.

In the highest World Cup innings of all time, he blasted 24 boundaries and 11 sixes as the Kiwis amassed 393-6.

Master blaster Chris Gayle whacked eight sixes in a brutal 61 off 33 balls in reply, but the Windies lost by 143 runs.

### Ben Dunk

The Tasmania blitzed a stunning 229 not out in a Matador BBQ One Day Cup tie against Queensland in



Ben Duckett is given out playing for Northants against Sussex.



Chris Gayle hits out for the West Indies.

October 2014 - and still finished on the losing side!

Dunk hammered 15 fours and 13 sixes in his 157-ball effort as Tasmania piled out 398-1 (Tim Paine 125) in their 50 overs in Sydney.

Incredibly, that score wasn't good enough as Queensland won on 402-3.

Usman Khawaja (166) and Chris

Hartley (142) put on 280 for the first wicket on a batsman's paradise.

Prior to Hartley being run out, 678 runs had been scored in a one day game for the loss of just one wicket!

### Graeme Pollock

The legendary South African batsman scored 222 playing for

Eastern Province against Border in a 60-over Gillette Cup tie in East London in October 1974.

In a vastly different era to today, Border made no attempt to chase EP's 372-5 total and finished their 60 overs on 166-2.

**Jamie How**

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# with Chris Gayle



Ravi Bopara scored an unbeaten double century in List A cricket for Essex in 2008.



New Zealand's Martin Guptill celebrates reaching a double century in the 2015 World Cup against the West Indies.

How struck 222 off 138 balls as Central Districts puled up 417-6 in a 50-over Ford Trophy tie against Northern Districts at Hamilton in March 2013.

He put on 321 for the first wicket with Jeet Raval (115), before their opponents made a brave attempt to claim an unlikely win.

With three of their last five bats-

man scoring half-centuries, Northern Districts were 398 all out.

## Ben Duckett

The Northants batsman compiled the second highest List A innings on English soil earlier this week.

Playing for England Lions in a tri-series game against Sri Lanka

at Canterbury, he hammered an unbeaten 220 off 131 balls.

He smote 29 fours and six sixes, sharing an unbroken 367-run second wicket stand with Daniel Bell-Drummond (171 not out off 139 balls).

The Lions racked up 425-1, before Sri Lanka were bowled out for 285.

## Virender Sehwag

The Indian star lashed 219 off 149 balls in an ODI against West Indies at Indore in December 2011.

Sehwag's heroics helped India total 418-5, with the West Indies bowled out for 296.

## Chris Gayle

It is no surprise to see Gayle occupy a place in this list.

The West Indian big hitter smashed 215 off 147 balls in a World Cup tie against Zimbabwe in Canberra in February 2015.

At the time it was the highest World Cup innings ever, but was soon to be bettered by Martin Guppill's 237 against the Windies.

Gayle and Marvin Samuels (133no) were together for almost the entire 50 overs.

After Zimbabwe had struck with the second ball of the game, their only other wicket came when Gayle was out off the last ball of the innings - the Windies ending with 372-2.

They eventually won by 73 runs.

● Only six List A double centuries have ever been scored on English soil.

Ali Brown and Ben Duckett struck the top two, with West Indian batsman Alvin Kallicharran scoring the third highest.

He struck 206 playing for Warwickshire against Oxfordshire in the 60-over NatWest Trophy at Edgbaston in July 1984.

The hosts posted 392-5, with the part-timers bowled out for 165 - Kallicharran completing a memorable day by taking 6-32!

Brown also holds the record for the fourth highest List A innings in England.

That was his incredible 203 off 119 balls in an AXA Life 40-over game against Hampshire at Guildford in July 1997.

Brown's efforts helped Surrey total 344-5, with Hampshire 276 all out (Shaun Udal 78).

Vince Wells hammered 201 for Leicestershire against Berkshire in a 1996 60-over NatWest Trophy tie at Grace Road.

Leicester was also the venue when Essex batsman Ravi Bopara struck 201 not out in a Friends Provident Trophy tie in June 2008.

## Other high List A innings in England

198\* - GA Gooch Essex v Sussex, Hove, 1982

191 - DS Lehmann Yorkshire v Nottinghamshire, Scarborough, 2001

189\* - IVA Richards West Indies v England, Old Trafford, 1984

189\* - JGE Benning Surrey v Gloucs, Bristol, 2006

189\* - MJ Guptill, New Zealand v England, Ageas Bowl, 2013

186\* - CG Greenidge, West Indians v Lancashire, Liverpool, 1984

185\* - DJ Malan England Lions v Sri Lanka A, Northampton, 2016.

## Pre-season fatigue risk

From facing page

A two-hour delay at passport control upon arrival in China started the trip on the wrong foot before heat and humidity made it difficult for the Portuguese to mould his new side in training.

The journey to Beijing then proved problematic as one of United's two chartered planes was forced to make an unscheduled stop in Tianjin due to the bad weather, leading Memphis Depay to post a video saying they were "lost somewhere" in China. It begs the question whether it is really worth playing pre-season games so far away from home, with Mourinho's main concern returning with his players fit and healthy.

## NOW YOU SEE HIM

One minute Sam Allardyce was set to lead Sunderland on their pre-season tour in Austria, the next he was being unveiled as new England manager at St George's Park. Allardyce signed a two-year deal to lead the Three Lions into their World Cup qualifying campaign and got straight to work, bidding au revoir to the Black Cats.

Sunderland moved swiftly to announce former Everton manager



New Sunderland manager David Moyes acknowledges the fans

David Moyes as the new man in charge at the Stadium of Light the day after Allardyce's exit but the change in the dugout may well have disrupted the trip. It seems a good manager is never safe and best laid plans can change in an instant.

## IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL

Tottenham are the Premier League side who will rack up the most air miles this summer, flying a total of 22,468 miles. Spurs hosted Nottingham Forest and Fulham at home before jetting to Melbourne, Australia, to face Juventus and Atletico Madrid, before they make a pit stop in Norway to take on Inter Milan.

Tottenham's globe-trotting eclipses Chelsea, the second most well-travelled side with 14,345 miles, while Watford will only be covering 1,632 miles this summer with trips to Woking, Stevenage and Austria on the agenda. With the new Premier League season kicking off on August 13, a week after Spurs play their last match in Oslo, the lucrative benefits of a pre-season tour balanced with the potential for jet lag and fatigue make these trips somewhat of a double-edged sword.



## Cyclists show their Tour de France power

CHRIS Froome secured his third Tour de France victory in Paris at the end of three weeks which delivered plenty of success for British riders. Here are five things we learned during 21 days and 3,535 kilometres of racing.

### 1. Froome is a cut above everyone else

With three wins out of the last four Tours – the exception being when he crashed out in 2014 – Froome has established himself as the dominant force in the race. He was expected to face a fierce challenge from Nairo Quintana, while the likes of Alberto Contador, Richie Porte and Fabio Aru seemed capable of putting up a fight. But once Froome took yellow on stage eight, there was rarely a moment he looked in danger – and when he did it was down to crashes on Mont Ventoux and on the approach to Saint-Gervais Mont Blanc rather than the actions of others. The strength of Team Sky was critical, with Froome particularly indebted to the performance of Dutchman Wout Poels. “Froome’s teammates are stronger than his rivals,” said the great Eddy Merckx. Quintana hardly attempted an attack in the entire race. The Colombian said in the final days of the Tour he had been suffering from



Three-time Tour de France champion Chris Froome

allergies, but even though he finished third overall, it feels like a race he barely took part in.

### 2. Mark Cavendish has still got ‘it’

Cavendish arrived at his 10th Tour with more questions than answers. His preparations were largely spent on the track ahead of the Rio Olympics, he was riding for a new team – Dimension Data – and he seemed to have been eclipsed by a new breed of sprinter, having won only three stages in his previous three Tours. But Cavendish smashed expectations in the opening week, wearing the yellow jersey for the first time in his career after winning at Utah Beach, then going on to add victories on stages four, six and 14 to move to 30 in his career before withdrawing on the second rest day to focus on Rio. Cavendish won by using his head as much as his legs. He was often free-styling in the final lengths but his years of experience were put to good use.

### 3. Adam Yates can be Britain’s next Grand Tour winner

continued on facing page

# Spin figures take

**YOUNG Mason Crane was recently at the centre of an accusation that Hampshire over-bowled him in their Championship defeat to Surrey.**

The 19 year-old leg-spinner took 3-210 from 51 overs – a record in one innings at The Ageas Bowl – during the first two days of Hampshire’s innings thrashing.

After the game, visiting captain Gareth Batty criticised Hampshire for over-bowling the teenager.

After taking 6-51 to win Surrey the game, veteran off-spinner Batty said: “I thought he bowled really, really well. But you hear Warney (Shane Warne) talk a lot about how spinners are used and I thought he was thrown under the car, to be honest.

“For a young fella to be bowling 50-odd overs and senior bowlers only bowling 20... that wouldn’t be happening under my watch.

“I look after my young fellas, particularly if it was a spinner.

### Lot of heart

“He’s got a lot to offer and he showed a lot of heart.

“Credit to him, to bowl 50-odd overs when we were in the ascendancy pretty much the whole time... fair dos to the lad.”

When asked about Crane’s workload, Hampshire captain Will Smith said he “couldn’t get the ball out of his hands”.

Batty continued: “I get that, but at times you have to do what’s right for individuals within your group.

“It’s as much about looking after yours as anything else. You look after them and they look after you in the long run.”

Smith, who lacked spin options with Liam Dawson on England Lions duty, added: “Mason just wanted to bowl. He saw it as an opportunity in dry conditions and knew it was his job, as the main spinner, to bowl as many overs as he could. I’m incredibly proud of the effort he put in.

“Without Daws’ here, the way he stepped up to the responsibility in first-innings conditions, holding up an end for the seamers to rotate... for the most part he was unbelievably good at restricting their rate.

### Experience

“Bowling those 50 overs, and the experience he’ll get with every over, is paramount.”

Crane’s analysis was by no means the most expensive in County Championship history. Indeed, it wasn’t even the most expensive by a Hampshire player this century.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the most expensive figures.

### Johnny Wardle

The Yorkshire bowler returned

figures of 52-8-236-3 while playing in the annual North v South game at Scarborough in September 1947.

That was the same year he made the first of his 28 Test appearances, which were spread over a decade.

Wardle played 412 first class games for Yorkshire, bagging 1,846 wickets including 134 five-wicket hauls and ten 10-wicket match hauls.

### Claude Henderson

The Leicestershire slow left armer returned the most expensive analysis in Championship history playing for Leicestershire at Surrey in June 2006.

The one-time South African Test bowler – he won seven caps in the early noughties – returned figures of 54.2-5-235-3 as Ali Brown (215), Rikki Clark (165) and Mark Butcher (105) helped the hosts pile up 668 at The Oval.

### Charlie Parker

The Gloucestershire slow left armer sent down an amazing 63 overs of left arm spin during the West Country derby with Somerset in Bristol in August 1923.

He ended with 6-231 as the visitors amassed 532-9 declared.

### Leonard Braund

The Somerset leg-break bowler took 5-227 off 40.2 overs during his side’s crushing defeat against Lancashire at Old Trafford in July 1905.

The home side’s Walter Brearley took 9-47 and 8-90 as Somerset – skittled for just 65 in their first innings – lost by an innings and 150 runs.

### Eustace Shine

Trinidad born, the Kent bowler took 6-226 in his side’s Championship visit to Surrey in August 1897.

After finishing his career, Shine retired to the south coast and passed away in New Milton in 1952.

### Bishen Bedi

Playing for India at Lord’s in the second Test in June 1974, the spinner returned figures of 64.2-8-226-6 as England piled up 629.

Dennis Amiss hit 188, skipper Mike Denness 118 and Tony Greig 106.

In reply, India were bowled out for 302 and, following on, were skittled for a paltry 42 (Chris Old 5-21) to lose by an innings and 285 runs.

### Sydney Santall

The Warwickshire bowlers took a hammering when Yorkshire rattled up 889 off 274.3 punishing overs at Edgbaston in May 1896.

Santall recorded figures of 2-223 off 65 overs, but he was not the only one to suffer.

Henry Pallett sent down 75.3 overs for 4-184, William Ward took 2-175 off 62 overs, and Alfred Glover took 1-154 in 30 overs.

Hampshire teen Mason Crane.



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# LOCAL CRICKET



## BISHOP'S HUGE TASK TO LEAVE THE DANGER ZONE

**BISHOP'S** Waltham's new found County Division 1 status is under threat after a run of five successive defeats saw them sucked into the relegation zone.

They have only three wins in ten outings and were searching for their first victory since June 11 when fourth-placed Hook visited today.

A four-run defeat by promotion chasing Purbrook has left Bishop's third from bottom in the three-down danger zone.

Winless Totton & Eling are near certainties for the drop, but any two of six struggling teams could also go down, *writes Mike Vimpany*.

Promoted as runners-up to United Services last season, Waltham almost pulled off a surprise result at lofty Purbrook.

They had Purbrook 56-4 but ended up chasing 222 after Sean Figgins (41) and Clark Harding (44) had pulled the hosts out of the mire.

Ross Bullard (43) and Adam Wymbs (30) had Bishops 71-2, but nerves became frayed in both camps as the visitors – having needed 11 to win off the last two overs – required a six off the last ball and closed four behind at 218-9.

It didn't help Waltham's cause that fellow strugglers Andover and Burridge both won.

Andover have won their last three games, but losing six of their opening seven means they entertained Portsmouth & Southsea today still stuck in the bottom two.

Martin Roberts hit 110 (two sixes and 11 fours) as Andover chased down Ventnor's 272-6 at Steephill.

Tom Leon (66) and Ben Woodhouse (50) hit half-centuries for the islanders, who are out of the immediate danger zone.

Burridge posted 269-6 (Simon Beavis 66) at Burnaby Road, where they dismissed early season leaders United Services for 222.

Sarisbury put 282-6 (Jamie Dunn 66) on the board against Fareham & Crofton at Allotment Road.

But Fareham got home by two wickets, with Hampshire Under-15 all-round prospect Oli Southon hitting 82.

Ellingham continued their downward spiral with a 37-run defeat against fourth-placed Hook and Newnham Basics II at the King George V Ground.

Hook's 258-8 was based around Graham Buckingham (97) and Andrew Darmody (52).

Ellingham's valiant chase was undone by Jack Campbell, who celebrated his first Hook II appearance of the summer with a 6-19 return.

"Jack bowls stump-to-stump seam-up. He also smashed 25 in the last four overs of our innings to help us to the total of 258," said Hook skip-



Andover's Martin Roberts sweeps the ball in his side's recent win over Calmore Sports.

## Search for their first victory since June 11

per Kevin Light, who fractured his thumb during the game.

Ashley Collinson bagged his maiden New Milton century in the 313-9 run mauling of Totton & Eling's at attack at Fernhill.

He hit 114 and shared a 165-run partnership with Oli Shrubsole (57), who added a 4-18 return to his half-century in Milton's victory.

Shrubsole, who joined Milton from Parley this season, has also produced fine performances for Dorset's Under-17 team.

Ropley's South African Tim Niemand will probably top the CD1 batting charts, though being overseas he won't be eligible for any awards.

He plundered 114 (five sixes and 13 fours) and joined Will Gabb (79) in a 313-run spree at Shrewton.

The Wiltshire side responded with 221, with Will Sleeman (77) and Dan Bingley (52) prominent before Will Harries biffed 40 not out.

Lofty Portsmouth & Southsea were looking down the barrels of defeat at 114-7 against visiting OTs & Romsey II.

But they were rescued by Sayeed Shadid (89 not out) and Ben Saunders (70), who both made career-best scores in an amazing 163-run eighth-wicket stand which saw the Southsea side to 289-8.

Alton II still lead the field by 17 points after Richard Anthony (75) and Howard Gadsby (66) shared an unbroken 162-run stand in the eight-wicket win at St Cross III. Steve Berryman (58) and Roly Fowler (40) top scored in Symondians' 212-9.

## Head hits stunning debut 175

FORMER Southern Premier League batsman Travis Head etched his name into Yorkshire's record books with a remarkable innings at Leicester.

The 22-year-old marked his one-day debut for the club by scoring an incredible 175 as Yorkshire thrashed Leicestershire by 191 runs.

It was the second-highest individual innings in Yorkshire's one-day history behind the 191 made by Head's fellow South Australian Darren Lehmann against Notts at Scarborough in 2001.

But it wasn't even Head's best ever List A score!

That came last October, playing for South Australia against Western Australia in a remarkable Matador BBQs One-Day Cup tie.

Head showcased his explosive hitting again a few weeks later playing for Adelaide against the Sydney Sixers in the KFC Big Bash T20 tournament.

He smashed an unbeaten 101 off 55 balls with nine sixes and four fours against a bowling attack containing ex-Hampshire seamer Jackson Bird and speed merchant Sean Abbott.

Head's talents were certainly on show in the



Travis Head

summer of 2013 when Head spent a summer playing for Ventnor in the Southern Premier League.

Head finished as the top flight's leading runscorer with 733 runs at 61.08.

He scored one century – an undefeated 142 against Bashley (Rydal) – and six half centuries from 14 visits to the crease.

In addition to his league runs, Head also struck 108 in a T20 Cup tie against Hambleton, with 11 sixes in his 54-ball innings.

There was also an incredible performance in a friendly match against a touring Cricketers' Club XI from New South Wales.

Head scored 115 out of 166 all out. Rob Snell was next highest with 27 and no other batsman made more than six.

Jack Leaning (131 not out) and Head shared in a Yorkshire record one-day stand of 274 that beat the 242 accumulated by Martyn Moxon and Ashley Metcalfe against Warwickshire at Headingley in 1990.



Oli Shrubsole.



# LOCAL CRICKET

## Burridge still in the thick of ECB Southern Premier race



**Burridge.** Standing (from left): Ben Fitchett, Dan Hewitt, Nick McMurray, Dan Stancliffe, Sully White, Jamie Richards. Seated: Joe Collings-Wells, Lee Savident, Rick Ankers, Geoff Dods, Will Steward.

SURPRISE packages Burridge are still in the thick of the ECB Southern Premier League championship race and, if things go to plan over the next five Saturdays, could still end up 'doing a Leicester City' and win the title.

They go to New Milton in the final round of Time pennant matches today in fourth place, 19 points behind leaders Havant – a remarkable

achievement considering the same group of players only just avoided relegation by the skin of their teeth at the end of last season.

But if they are to emulate Leicester City's feat, Burridge are going to have to win key run-in 50-over matches at South Wilts and Havant on the final day of the season.

● Heavy rain 30 minutes of so before the sched-

uled start led to the Winchester & District CA Tichborne and Igglesden Trophy finals being called off.

The Tichborne final between Longparish and Tichborne Park, and Compton & Chandler's Ford v Easton & Martyr Worthy for the Igglesden Trophy, will now be at St Cross Symondians' ground on Monday evening (6pm).

## White has his say in tight draw

SULLY White is unlikely to ever bowl another last over like it, but the triple wicket maiden he produced for Burridge last week could come back and haunt Bashley for the rest of the season.

With four wickets in hand and only two runs required for victory, Bashley were odds-on to successfully chase down a Burridge total of 190 and enhance their prospects of winning the Premier Division title.

But in the space of five deliveries, the Surrey University graduate changed the face of the game – and may be the title race.

With Burridge's posh electronic scoreboard showing 189-6, White produced his amazing triple-wicket feat.

First, Chris Ridley, who alongside sixth-wicket partner Tom Jacques (37) had swung the match back in Bashley's favour, spooned a simple catch to square-leg playing a favoured 'ramp' shot.

Two balls later, Josh Digby was caught behind (189-8), but then tail-end teen Brad Currie scrambled a leg bye off the penultimate ball to level the scores.

It left Dorset's Sam Thomson needing one run to win off the final ball.

But the spinner had his stumps flattened as White punched the air and was mobbed by his team-mates as he celebrated his maiden five-wicket haul in Premier League cricket.

It was the third match running Bashley had been involved in a last-ball decider and then second time the scores had finished level.

Unlike the recent Lymington tie when both teams were bowled out, however, the Burridge match was drawn as Bashley (Rydal) were only nine wickets down at the close.

But failing to nail the victory cost Bashley dear in terms of win and bonus points.

Had they claimed a win over Burridge, they would have been nine points better off going into today's final Time game with Alton.



Sully White.

# FORMER COLLEGE MAN KEY TO HAVANT MATCH

**FORMER** Winchester College skipper Oli Mills will be a key player as Havant bid to reach the semi-finals of the ECB Royal London national club championship tomorrow.

But Mills will be in the opposition changing room at Havant Park as Surrey Championship giants Weybridge come visiting for a place in the last four.

Mills, who cut his teeth locally playing for Hambledon, switched to Weybridge last season after a spell with Ventnor.

He will bat at four for Weybridge and will be a seam bowling option for the stockbroker Surrey club, who have emerged from a lean start to the summer to win their last four Championship matches and climb to third place in the table.

They were beaten finalists against Sunbury in last weekend's Surrey T20 Club final.

Havant, who have reached the semi-

final once before, are at full strength and will draw confidence from an outstanding win over West of England Premier League champions Frocester last time out.

Their plan will be at bat first, post a big score and let their spinners get to work.

Weybridge, whose ranks include MCC YC's left-hand opener Ben Curran and former England U19 captain Jack Winslade, are also expected to reply heavily on their spin attack.

Havant: Walker, Hopson, Gibson, Ransley, Gorvin, Stone, Hindley, Bulled, Morgan, Prentice, Matthews.  
Weybridge: Winslade, Curran, Cripps, Slipper, Mills, McKinlay, Mann, Arnot, Kerry, Turner, Vaiaker.

● South Wilts have been paired against Sussex Premier League giants Preston Nomads in the ECB NatWest Club T20 regional semi-finals at Bemerton next Sunday, August 7.

The pair lock horns at 10 o'clock, with Sunbury (Middlesex) taking on Tunbridge Wells in the second semi-final at lunchtime. The final is at 4pm.



Oli Mills.



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James Vinton is pictured signing for Hamble Club.

## Monks welcome new pair aboard

HAMBLE Club have welcomed two more new faces aboard for their maiden voyage into Sydenhams One.

The merry Monks – just up from the Hampshire Premier League – have signed Murray Holmes and James Vinton.

Holmes, a former AFC Bournemouth trainee, has already played Sydenhams football with Premier Division outfit Brockenhurst.

Hamble tried to sign him last season, but he spent much of it sidelined by injury.

“Murray’s normally a left-back,

but we’ve also played him left midfield or central midfield in pre-season and he’s looked very comfortable,” said joint manager Ben Kneller.

“He’s fitted in well and the lads have really taken to him.”

### Local lad

Centre-back Vinton is another ex-Brockenhurst player who has also turned out for Hamble’s neighbours Folland Sports.

“James has played for Brock and Follands, so he should be fine in Wessex One,” said Knel-

ler. “He’s great for us because he comes from Netley, so he’s a local lad as well.”

Vinton and Holmes join a host of new Hamble Club signings, including Matt Burt, Wayne Boud, Mitch Parker, Jamie Mansell and goalkeeper Sam Webb.

The Monks will be kicking off the league season at fellow newcomers Shaftesbury next weekend.

● Have you got a non-league football story for us? We want to hear from you. Email Wendy Gee at [wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk](mailto:wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk)

# Saunders is the new man in Winchester City hot seat

**DAVE Malone seldom hangs around when it comes to finding a new manager – and Winchester City’s director of football has been true to form this week**

Within hours of Paul Masters quitting on Wednesday morning, City’s director of football had already scanned his contacts book and circled two prime targets, *writes Wendy Gee*.

That evening he met with one of them, Petersfield Town’s Ian Saunders, provisionally offered him the job and asked him to think about it overnight.

The following day the Salisbury-based Army warrant officer tendered his resignation at Love Lane, ready to lead Winchester into Southern One South & West action at Slimbridge next Saturday.

City’s new boss boasts impressive credentials, having led Petersfield to the Sydenhams Premier Division title two seasons ago, beating Winchester to the crown. Miraculously that came just a year after The Rams had won Sydenhams One.

The two clubs were promoted hand in hand last summer, with Petersfield assigned to the Southern One Central and City getting a late entry into the South & West.

### Credit

While Winchester made it to the play-off semi-finals, The Rams finished a steady 13th on a modest budget.

“You’ve got to give credit to Ian and Petersfield for what they’ve achieved,” said Malone.

“He was with them for four years and in that time they won Wessex One and Wessex Premier and he did a good job last year on a very small budget.

“We’ve crossed swords with Ian a number of times in the Wessex League and in the Trophy and Red Insure Cup last year and he’s always managed to put a decent side together.”

Saunders’ departure will have come as a hammer blow to Petersfield, where he and his assistant Jason Hampson were also part of the management committee.

Admitting he felt for the Love Lane club, Malone said: “I did it the right



Ian Saunders with the 2014/15 Sydenhams Premier trophy

## Dave Malone swoops for Petersfield boss

way and spoke to the Petersfield chairman first.

“I’ve got sympathy for them because I wouldn’t like my manager nicked so close to the start of the sea-

son, but we had to put pressure on Ian to make a quick decision because of the situation we’re in.

“I had a long chat with Ian and he is Mr Enthusiastic personified.

“I’m still disappointed to lose Paul Masters, because we got on well, but for him to push us on he felt he needed a bigger budget and it’s money we haven’t got.

### Budget

“I’ve told Ian that the budget is the budget, and it’s not for breaking.

“It’s still a lot more than he’s had at Petersfield, although not as much as we’d like in a perfect world.”

● Paul Masters on why he quit Winchester City - turn inside to page 23

### THE RACING WEEK AHEAD

Monday: Carlisle stages its unique ladies-only card with all seven events at the evening fixture confined to professional and amateur riders of the fairer sex.

Tuesday: Cork is the place to be for the Group Three Irish Stallions Farms European Breeders Fund Give Thanks Stakes. Named after the 1983 Irish Oaks winner, Dermot Weld and Pat Smullen have combined to lift the 12-furlong heat on four previous occasions.

Wednesday: The John Smith’s Brighton Mile Challenge is the key event as the seaside track kicks off what is usually an enjoyable three-day fixture.

Thursday: Group Three action at Leopardstown with the Ballyroan Stakes - another event that has been farmed by eight-times winners Weld and Smullen. However, Aidan O’Brien will be seeking his fourth win on the spin.

Friday: The Harvey Bloom Memorial ‘Brighton Bullet’ Handicap is the pick on the final day on the south coast while Newmarket swings into action with the first day of its weekend fixture. The presence of DJ Mark Ronson after racing will surely see the party atmosphere in full swing.

Saturday: Sammy-Jo Bell really set the Shergar Cup meeting alight last year and Ascot will surely be hoping Josephine Gordon can follow in her footsteps in this year’s international jockey competition. Bell was a late substitute last term and Gordon will be filling the boots of the injured Cathy Gannon in the girls’ team this year. Canadian Emma-Jayne Wilson and comeback queen Hayley Turner are also booked for the competition which is due to feature Frankie Dettori on the European team, Silvestre de Sousa leading the Rest of the World and Joe Fanning for the British and Irish side.

Sunday: All eyes on Deauville where the Prix Maurice de Gheest is the feature event, offering Group One glory over six and a half furlongs.

### FIXTURES (FLAT in capitals)

Monday: CARLISLE (evening), KEMPTON, RIPON, WINDSOR (evening)

Tuesday: CATTERICK, CHELMSFORD (evening), NOTTINGHAM (evening), SALISBURY

Wednesday: BATH, BRIGHTON, KEMPTON (evening), PONTEFRAC, YARMOUTH (evening)

Thursday: BRIGHTON, HAYDOCK, NEWCASTLE (evening), SANDOWN

(evening), WOLVERHAMPTON (evening), YARMOUTH

Friday: BRIGHTON, HAYDOCK (evening), MUSSELBURGH, NEWMARKET (evening), WOLVERHAMPTON

Saturday: ASCOT (CH4), AYR (evening), HAYDOCK (CH4), LINGFIELD (evening), NEWMARKET (CH4), REDCAR

Sunday: CHELMSFORD, LEICESTER, WINDSOR

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